

Freedom

Anarchist Weekly

6d

NOVEMBER 29 1969 Vol 30 No 37

WAR CORRUPTS

IF POWER CORRUPTS AND ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ALL, THEN THE SOLDIER IN EVERY ARMY IN THE WORLD BECOMES CORRUPTED THE MOMENT HE BEGINS HIS TRADITION OF OVERPOWER HIS ENEMY—BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY. THE MEANS, BUT IN PRACTICE THERE ARE NONE. IT CAN BE CARRIED ON WITH REGARD FOR THE HUMANITY OF THE LIBERAL MYTH, FOR WAR IS THE POWER GAME. AND WHEN MASSES OF ORDINARY MEN ARE TOLD THAT THE CONCEPT OF THE STRUGGLE BEING CARRIED ON BY QUEENSBERRY RULES IS LUDICROUS. ODDLY ENOUGH BROUGHT OUT, IT REFERS NEARLY ALWAYS TO THE COLD-BLOODED SHOOTING OR BAYONETING BY SOLDIERS IN DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH THE ENEMY OF BOMBING RAIDS, INEVITABLY KILLING CIVILIANS. CONSIDERED TO BE ATROCIOUS SINCE OBLITERATION OF WARFARE. THIS SIMPLE EXAMPLE OF THE LOGIC IS ENOUGH FOR US TO CONTEND THAT THE REAL CAUSE OF WAR IS THE CAUSE OF WAR THAT ANARCHISTS ATTACK.

'WHY, IT IS QUITE NORMAL

FOR TWENTY YEARS—first by the French, then by the Americans and throughout by the Vietcong—the Vietnamese people, peasants and townsfolk, men, women, children and babies, have been systematically slaughtered. Their villages have been bombed by napalm, one of the foulest of war weapons; their crops have been poisoned, their forests defoliated; their schools, hospitals, factories, homes, destroyed by one side or the other.

When the Vietcong take a village which has not supported them as they think it should have, the community's leaders are either shot in the public square, or taken as hostages—and then shot. Terror raids on villages, in city streets, markets, restaurants or cinemas, either with bombs, rockets or mortars, indiscriminately kill anybody within range.

And the world now knows how some Americans behave when they take a village which has not supported them as they think it should have.

Pinkville is now going to pass into the bibliography of atrocity, along

with Amritsar, Lidice, Sharpville... all those other shameful names in the history of government in this century alone. We don't have to go back to Genghis Khan, the Caesars or the Vikings for examples of man's inhumanity to man. Nearly two thousand years after gentle Jesus mouthed his bit about 'Love thy neighbour', and the Gods only know how long after the high priests of Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Shintoism, Hinduism—all of them, began their hot gossiping on ethical behaviour and all their variations on 'do unto others'—after all this, the twentieth century is different only in the brutal efficiency of the weapons placed in the warriors' hands, and in the hypocrisy.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

Did anyone tut-tut at Genghis Khan when he came back home reeking of blood and laden with loot? Did anyone expect warriors to behave other than with rape and massacre, when all they had to fight with were their swords in their strong right arms?

Of course not. But when the killing could be more efficiently done from a distance it became just as important to control your own troops as to control the killing of the enemy. After all, when dealing with unwilling, conscript armies, undisciplined killing of the 'enemy' could even lead to the undisciplined killing of their own officers—whom some soldiers are said to regard as their real enemy, anyway!

It is because 'nobody' can be allowed to take the law into their own hands' that rules are laid down for war as for peace. Nothing to do with humane treatment of the other side at all.

When ordered to, the airman must rain napalm bombs on civilian dwellings; when the time comes, someone will be ordered to press the button for nuclear annihilation. The rules of war are that you must do as you are told—no less and no more. Anything else is the liberal myth that you can temper authority with humanity under the law and under all circumstances.

You can't. Authority can be

humane only when it is not used. When it is then it reacts to the limit of its power, more, in order to win.

Add to this the case of the ordinary person in the front line, a soldier, and the front line position. Fed up and treated like a thing, a machine, spat at and despised, and himself hated in the process, he is forced to lean for support on the solidarity of unwilling comrades and seeing them shot and killed—him—and then it becomes his duty to kill them, him that the folks back home no longer think him the same as he was when he left.

A BAD CONSCIENCE

Is it coincidence that the three exposures of the American troops—napped by a platoon in the jungle, where they were then shot her; the murder of an 'agent' by the CIA; and a (though year-old) diatribe about a massacre at My Lai.

The Greatest Atrocity of them all

Following is a compilation of atrocities, they are limited in time to the last fifty-five years but like all atrocities are not limited in their country or creed of origin. It might make a salutary exercise for the self-righteous (and who is not?) to determine the source and occasion of them. No prizes are offered and the grim game is not recommended for parties—except political ones!

J.Q.

(Names of places and people have been

bayonet.

(4) Chunks of human flesh were quivering on the branches of the trees. . . . A half dozen houses were burning. . . . Mules and horses were pawing in their own entrails. . . . The whitewashed church was bespattered with blood and brains. . . . Men were running about howling with insanity, their eyes protruding from their sockets. . . .

(5) In ——— mass executions take place at night in the cemetery. A searchlight and two machine-guns are used. As a

alive; for we have all long since ceased to be afraid of death alone. I was repeatedly a witness of these nocturnal executions and again and again saw individuals—usually women but sometimes even men who were about to be shot—throw themselves at the feet of the (soldiers), clasp their arms and feet and implore them—not to spare their lives, but to shoot straight or, if possible, to shoot them out of hand.

(6) On ——— twenty-five prisoners faced firing squads within the cemetery

the result that many were wounded. In consequence of these instances of individual acts.

(7) In the morning I met my fellow passenger officers. They conversed in loud voices which I overheard. One of them went forth in an aggressive tone, and soon I discovered ———, the hero of the describing his experience.

of the foulest of war weapons—their crops have been poisoned, their forests defoliated; their schools, hospitals, factories, homes, destroyed by one side or the other.

When the Vietcong take a village which has not supported them as they think it should have, the community's leaders are either shot in the public square, or taken as hostages—and then shot. Terror raids on villages, in city streets, markets, restaurants or cinemas, either with bombs, rockets or mortars, indiscriminately kill anybody within range.

And the world now knows how some Americans behave when they take a village which has not supported them as they think it should have.

Pinkville is now going to pass into the bibliography of atrocity, along

mouthed his bit about 'Love thy neighbour', and the Gods only know how long after the high priests of Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Shintoism, Hinduism—all of them, began their hot gossiping on ethical behaviour and all their variations on 'do unto others'—after all this, the twentieth century is different only in the brutal efficiency of the weapons placed in the warriors' hands, and in the hypocrisy.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

Did anyone tut-tut at Genghis Khan when he came back home reeking of blood and laden with loot? Did anyone expect warriors to behave other than with rape and massacre, when all they had to fight with were their swords in their strong right arms?

could even lead to the undisciplined killing of their own officers—whom some soldiers are said to regard as their real enemy, anyway!

It is because 'nobody can be allowed to take the law into their own hands' that rules are laid down for war as for peace. Nothing to do with humane treatment of the other side at all.

When ordered to, the airman must rain napalm bombs on civilian dwellings; when the time comes, someone will be ordered to press the button for nuclear annihilation. The rules of war are that you must do as you are told—no less and no more. Anything else is the liberal myth that you can temper authority with humanity under the law and under all circumstances.

You can't. Authority can be

treated like a machine, spat at and ing himself hated if forced to lean for solidarity of unw and seeing them sh him—and then it be him that the folks longer think him th he was when he left

A BAD CONSCIENCE

Is it coincidence? three exposures of American troops napped by a plato the jungle, where th and then shot her; murder of an 'agen up by the CIA; (though year-old) c massacre at My L

The Greatest Atrocity of them all

Following is a compilation of atrocities, they are limited in time to the last fifty-five years but like all atrocities are not limited in their country or creed of origin. It might make a salutary exercise for the self-righteous (and who is not?) to determine the source and occasion of them. No prizes are offered and the grim game is not recommended for parties—except political ones!

J.Q.

(Names of places and people have been omitted.)

(1) Thousands of people had nobody to help them. Miss ——— was one of them. Abandoned and helpless, under the crude lean-to in the courtyard of the tin factory, beside the woman who had lost a breast and the man whose burned face was scarcely a face any more, she suffered awfully that night from the pain in her broken leg. She did not sleep at all; neither did she converse with her sleepless companions.

(2) The sight was so appalling that without a second glance I decided not to pick my way among these corpses. For this reason I turned back and headed for the (park). But here it was even more appalling: Walking through the grounds, I could see torn-off arms and legs, mutilated torsos, and heads which had been wrenched off their bodies and rolled away. In places the corpses were still lying so densely that I had to clear a path through them in order not to tread on arms and legs.

(3) There were also hundreds of nameless bodies which could not be identified. All had been executed in the same manner—lying face to the ground, their hands tied behind them with a piece of rope which had been looped around their necks to strangle them if they tried to liberate themselves from their bonds. They all had been shot in the back of the head just above the shoulders, and the bullets had emerged through the forehead. Some of the ——— who had not been killed by the bullet had been dropped into the trench alive and had been killed by the typical triangular —

bayonet.

(4) Chunks of human flesh were quivering on the branches of the trees. . . . A half dozen houses were burning. . . . Mules and horses were pawing in their own entrails. . . . The whitewashed church was bespattered with blood and brains. . . . Men were running about howling with insanity, their eyes protruding from their sockets. . . .

(5) In ——— mass executions take place at night in the cemetery. A searchlight and two machine-guns are used. As a result of this summary procedure it often happens that men and women who are not yet dead but only wounded, are thrown into the mass grave. This story has got round amongst the prisoners and their fear is that they will be buried

alive; for we have all long since ceased to be afraid of death alone. I was repeatedly a witness of these nocturnal executions and again and again saw individuals—usually women but sometimes even men who were about to be shot—throw themselves at the feet of the (soldiers), clasp their arms and feet and implore them—not to spare their lives, but to shoot straight or, if possible, to shoot them out of hand.

(6) On ——— twenty-five prisoners faced firing squads within the cemetery grounds. They were tied together in batches of three, but the keeper of the cemetery protested to ——— that his business was to bury the dead and not the living. The reason for this was that the ———s were not good shots, with

the result that many wounded. In consequence instances of individual

(7) In the morning I my fellow passengers officers. They convers in loud voices which overhearing. One of forth in an aggressive tone, and soon I disc ———, the hero of describing his experience out how he had the mercy and he had felt rebellious city to a l he took pity on it and of about 5,000 gathered defiance of a proclamation were ordered to fire w being given and 379 and many more injured

(8) In front of us a standing, a little crou arms held out from no eyes, and his wh of which was visible burnt rags, was cov black crust speckled A ——— woman by speak, and the interp to stand, sir, he can had to stand because covered with a skin, b crackling which broke

(9) I was made to I was whipped. I h My mouth was forced of wood, and then I I asked for a drink of to a latrine and told

(10) ——— clears line opposite his fro movements of his through our glasses. two prisoners being man's-land to our arrive! 'You must prisoners escape!' I of a company late prisoners escape, sir receive, ' . . . somet

Franco and the Stalinist World

SPAIN'S SELF-IMPOSED 'cordon sanitaire' from communist contagion is now a thing of the past: the establishment of consular relations with both Poland and Romania is a sign of this. Castiella (Spanish Foreign Minister until he was sacked a few weeks ago) has been trying to normalise relations between his country and those of the Stalinist bloc, and many other countries now have regular cultural and especially commercial exchanges with Spain.

Things have gone a little slower with the USSR. There remains the question of the 'Moscow Gold'—some £300 millions of it—though both sides are playing this down much to the annoyance of both the Spanish exiles in Russia and groups of Falangists who have organised a march on Madrid to protest against any relations whatsoever

with the Communist bloc. So far, there has been a naval treaty and there is a continual stream of cultural interchanges.

There is also the rumour that Franco is playing off America against Russia for the 'privilege' of having bases in Spain. Spain is officially not part of the 'Western bloc' and the present policy of the régime is to try to get what it can from both groups. The anti-communist period of Franco is now past. He will now find it even harder to justify the millions dead, and still dying in his prisons, to the Spanish people. Any régime will gladly forget the sacrifice of millions for their 'system' when there is money to be made. Money obviously screams louder than any 'ideology'.

(Le Combat Syndicaliste)
(Translated T.L.)

Selected

WAR CORRUPTS

IF POWER CORRUPTS AND ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY, THEN EVERY SOLDIER IN EVERY ARMY IN THE WORLD BECOMES SUBJECT TO THE PROCESS OF CORRUPTION THE MOMENT HE BEGINS HIS TRAINING. THE JOB OF THE SOLDIER IS TO OVERPOWER HIS ENEMY—BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY. IN THEORY THERE ARE LIMITS TO THE MEANS, BUT IN PRACTICE THERE ARE NONE. THE IDEA THAT MODERN WAR CAN BE CARRIED ON WITH REGARD FOR THE HUMANITIES IS A GRIM JOKE, JUST ANOTHER LIBERAL MYTH, FOR WAR IS THE POWER GAME CARRIED ON WITH NO HOLDS BARRED, AND WHEN MASSES OF ORDINARY MEN ARE TRAINED TO KILL OR BE KILLED, THEN THE CONCEPT OF THE STRUGGLE BEING CARRIED ON WITH REGARD FOR THE QUEENSBERRY RULES IS LUDICROUS. ODDLY ENOUGH, WHEN THE WORD 'ATROCITY' IS BROUGHT OUT, IT REFERS NEARLY ALWAYS TO KILLING ON A FACE-TO-FACE LEVEL—TO THE COLD-BLOODED SHOOTING OR BAYONETING OF INDIVIDUALS, FEW OR MANY, BY SOLDIERS IN DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH THEIR VICTIMS; THE MASS MURDER OF BOMBING RAIDS, INEVITABLY KILLING CIVILIANS BY THE THOUSAND, IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE ATROCIOUS SINCE OBLITERATION BOMBING IS A LEGITIMATE FORM OF WARFARE. THIS SIMPLE EXAMPLE OF THE DOUBLE-THINK OF MILITARISTS IS ENOUGH FOR US TO CONTEND THAT THE REAL ATROCITY IS WAR ITSELF—AND IT IS THE CAUSE OF WAR THAT ANARCHISTS ATTACK.

IS QUITE NORMAL!'

Sharpville...
neful names in
rment in this
on't have to go
an, the Caesars
mples of man's
Nearly two
r gentle Jesus
ut 'Love thy
Gods only know
high priests of
dhism, Shinto-
of them, began
an ethical beha-
variations on 'do
all this, the
different only
ciency of the
the warriors'
pocrisy.

EXPECT?

ut at Genghis
ne back home
nd laden with
expect warriors
with rape and
words in their

Of course not. But when the killing could be more efficiently done from a distance it became just as important to control your own troops as to control the killing of the enemy. After all, when dealing with unwilling, conscript armies, undisciplined killing of the 'enemy' could even lead to the undisciplined killing of their own officers—whom some soldiers are said to regard as their real enemy, anyway!

It is because 'nobody can be allowed to take the law into their own hands' that rules are laid down for war as for peace. Nothing to do with humane treatment of the other side at all.

When ordered to, the airman must rain napalm bombs on civilian dwellings; when the time comes, someone will be ordered to press the button for nuclear annihilation. The rules of war are that you must do as you are told—no less and no more. Anything else is the liberal myth that you can temper authority with humanity under the law and under all circumstances.

You can't. Authority can be

humane only when it is not threatened. When it is threatened it must react to the limit of the threat and more, in order to win.

Add to this the corruption of the ordinary person in turning him into a soldier, and the frustration of his position. Fed up and far from home, treated like a thing in the military machine, spat at and shot at, knowing himself hated in a foreign land, forced to lean for his life on the solidarity of unwilling comrades, and seeing them shot down beside him—and then it begins to dawn on him that the folks back home no longer think him the hero they said he was when he left.

A BAD CONSCIENCE

Is it coincidence that we have had three exposures of 'atrocities' by American troops—the girl kidnapped by a platoon on patrol into the jungle, where they all raped her and then shot her; the Green Berets' murder of an 'agent' and the cover-up by the CIA; and the present (though year-old) disclosures of the massacre at My Lai—all in recent

weeks after the great swing in public opinion in America against the war?

The fact that some individuals are prepared to come forward now and expose these incidents, obviously at some risk to themselves, indicates that they know there will be support for them where only a year ago they might have been crushed.

America clearly now has a very bad conscience about the Vietnam war—and by Christ it's about time! No doubt great play will be made by the Communists (who close their eyes to their own atrocities) and by those who will jump on political bandwagons to make capital out of these sordid incidents.

For anarchists however, atrocity and massacre is what war is all about. War is the atrocity. There is no point in training personnel to be killers, to knock the humanity out of them, to force them to be lousy murdering bastards and then complain when this is just what they turn out to be.

To prevent atrocities you must prevent war. To prevent war you must remove its cause. The cause of war is the power political struggle which all governments from liberal to fascist and communist must play.

As one South Vietnamese said to Mark Frankland, *Observer* correspondent in Saigon, expressing surprise at the world's interest in Pinkville: 'Why,' he said, 'it is quite normal.'

JUSTIN.

Atrocity of them all

man flesh were
hes of the trees.
es were burning.
were pawing in
The whitewashed
with blood and
e running about
their eyes pro-
ets. . . .
cutions take place
y. A searchlight
are used. As a

alive; for we have all long since ceased to be afraid of death alone. I was repeatedly a witness of these nocturnal executions and again and again saw individuals—usually women but sometimes even men who were about to be shot—throw themselves at the feet of the (soldiers), clasp their arms and feet and implore them—not to spare their lives, but to shoot straight or, if possible, to shoot them out of hand.

(6) On ——— twenty-five prisoners faced firing squads within the cemetery

the result that many victims were only wounded. In consequence there had been instances of individuals being buried alive.

(7) In the morning I discovered that all my fellow passengers were military officers. They conversed with each other in loud voices which I could not help overhearing. One of them was holding forth in an aggressive and triumphant tone, and soon I discovered that he was ———, the hero of ———, who was describing his experiences. He pointed

Footnote by Skitz

LISTEN, PINKO!
IF WE GONNA SHOW THEM
GODDAM COMMIES WE ARE
BETTER THAN THEY

ods only know
high priests of
ddhism, Shinto-
of them, began
on ethical beha-
variations on 'do
all this, the
different only
ciency of the
the warriors'
pocrisy.

EXPECT?

ut at Genghis
me back home
and laden with
expect warriors
with rape and
they had to fight
words in their

killing of their own officers—whom
some soldiers are said to regard as
their real enemy, anyway!

It is because 'nobody can be
allowed to take the law into their
own hands' that rules are laid down
for war as for peace. Nothing to do
with humane treatment of the other
side at all.

When ordered to, the airman
must rain napalm bombs on civilian
dwellings; when the time comes,
someone will be ordered to press the
button for nuclear annihilation. The
rules of war are that you must do
as you are told—no less and no
more. Anything else is the liberal
myth that you can temper authority
with humanity under the law and
under all circumstances.

You can't. Authority can be

machine, spat at and shot at, know-
ing himself hated in a foreign land,
forced to lean for his life on the
solidarity of unwilling comrades,
and seeing them shot down beside
him—and then it begins to dawn on
him that the folks back home no
longer think him the hero they said
he was when he left.

A BAD CONSCIENCE

Is it coincidence that we have had
three exposures of 'atrocities' by
American troops—the girl kid-
napped by a platoon on patrol into
the jungle, where they all raped her
and then shot her; the Green Berets'
murder of an 'agent' and the cover-
up by the CIA; and the present
(though year-old) disclosures of the
massacre at My Lai—all in recent

America clearly now has a very
bad conscience about the Vietnam
war—and by Christ it's about time!
No doubt great play will be made
by the Communists (who close their
eyes to their own atrocities) and by
those who will jump on political
bandwagons to make capital out of
these sordid incidents.

For anarchists however, atrocity
and massacre is what war is all
about. War is the atrocity. There is
no point in training personnel to be
killers, to knock the humanity out
of them, to force them to be lousy
murdering bastards and then com-
plain when this is just what they
turn out to be.

To prevent atrocities you must
prevent war. To prevent war you
must remove its cause. The cause
of war is the power political struggle
which all governments from liberal
to fascist and communist must play.

As one South Vietnamese said to
Mark Frankland, *Observer* corre-
spondent in Saigon, expressing sur-
prise at the world's interest in Pink-
ville: 'Why,' he said, 'it is quite
normal.'

JUSTIN.

Atrocity of them all

man flesh were
ches of the trees.
ses were burning.
s were pawing in
The whitewashed
d with blood and
re running about
their eyes pro-
ets. . . .

ecutions take place
ry. A searchlight
are used. As a
procedure it often
women who are
ly wounded, are
grave. This story
the prisoners and
y will be buried

alive; for we have all long since ceased
to be afraid of death alone. I was
repeatedly a witness of these nocturnal
executions and again and again saw
individuals—usually women but some-
times even men who were about to be
shot—throw themselves at the feet of
the (soldiers), clasp their arms and feet
and implore them—not to spare their
lives, but to shoot straight or, if pos-
sible, to shoot them out of hand.

(6) On ——— twenty-five prisoners
faced firing squads within the cemetery
grounds. They were tied together in
batches of three, but the keeper of the
cemetery protested to ——— that his
business was to bury the dead and not
the living. The reason for this was that
the ———s were not good shots, with

the result that many victims were only
wounded. In consequence there had been
instances of individuals being buried
alive.

(7) In the morning I discovered that all
my fellow passengers were military
officers. They conversed with each other
in loud voices which I could not help
overhearing. One of them was holding
forth in an aggressive and triumphant
tone, and soon I discovered that he was
———, the hero of ———, who was
describing his experiences. He pointed
out how he had the whole town at his
mercy and he had felt like reducing the
rebellious city to a heap of ashes, but
he took pity on it and refrained. (A mob
of about 5,000 gathered in the town in
defiance of a proclamation. The soldiers
were ordered to fire without any warning
being given and 379 people were killed
and many more injured.)

(8) In front of us a curious figure was
standing, a little crouched, legs straggled,
arms held out from his sides. He had
no eyes, and his whole body, nearly all
of which was visible through tatters of
burnt rags, was covered with a hard
black crust speckled with yellow pus.
A ——— woman by his side began to
speak, and the interpreter said, 'He has
to stand, sir, he cannot sit or lie'. He
had to stand because he was no longer
covered with a skin, but with a crust like
crackling which broke easily.

(9) I was made to kiss negroes' feet.
I was whipped. I had to drink saliva.
My mouth was forced open with a piece
of wood, and then I was spat on. When
I asked for a drink of water, I was taken
to a latrine and told 'Drink'.

(10) ——— clears up a bit of hostile
line opposite his front. We follow the
movements of his ——— survivors
through our glasses. We count twenty-
two prisoners being hunted across no-
man's-land to our lines. Only five
arrive! 'You must have let seventeen
prisoners escape!' I say to the captain
of a company later. 'We never let
prisoners escape, sir,' is the answer I
receive, '... sometimes they attempt to'.

Footnote by Skitz

LISTEN, PINKO!
IF WE GONNA SHOW THEM
GODDAM COMMIES WEARE
BETTER THAN THEY
ARE—WE GOTTA
BE JUST AS
BAD AS
THEY ARE
—RIGHT?



Forcible Feeding at Brixton

DIARMUID BREANACH of the
South-West London squatters went
on hunger-strike in protest against refusal
of bail. He was fasting for eight days
and was offered eggs and milk which he
refused whereupon his supply of water
was withdrawn for the day of Friday.

On the ninth day he was transferred
into a strip cell, clothed in what seemed
like a straitjacket and told that he would
be forcibly fed (it had been known by
friends that were this to happen Diar-
muud would eat). He was left in this cell
and the doctor was called to commence
'feeding'. At this point Diarmuid agreed
to eat, having made his protest.

R.J.

Stalinist World

POSED 'cordon
communist con-
of the past: the
lar relations with
ania is a sign of
Foreign Minister
(a few weeks ago)
ormalise relations
and those of the
y other countries
ral and especially
with Spain.

little slower with
ains the question
old'—some £300
n both sides are
ch to the annoy-
Spanish exiles in
f Falangists who
ch on Madrid to
lations whatsoever

with the Communist bloc. So far, there
has been a naval treaty and there is a
continual stream of cultural inter-
changes.

There is also the rumour that Franco
is playing off America against Russia
for the 'privilege' of having bases in
Spain. Spain is officially not part of the
'Western bloc' and the present policy of
the régime is to try to get what it can
from both groups. The anti-communist
period of Franco is now past. He will
now find it even harder to justify the
millions dead, and still dying in his
prisons, to the Spanish people. Any
régime will gladly forget the sacrifice
of millions for their 'system' when there
is money to be made. Money obviously
screams louder than any 'ideology'.

(Le Combat Syndicaliste)
(Translated T.L.)

Selected by JOHN QUIXOTE.

BRITISH SECRET POLICE

ACCORDING TO A TV TIMES article on the new ITV series 'Special Branch', foreign observers have described this shady arm of the law as 'the most highly organised secret police in Europe'. Apparently Scotland Yard finds it hard to accept the compliment but, says *TV Times*, they needn't feel embarrassed about it—'If you have to have a secret police the Special Branch is the best democratic example'. The information contained in the article hardly supports the argument. The clean shaven, pipe-smoking bank clerk, and the long-haired hippy in tattered jeans 'could be members of Britain's Secret Police . . . those two totally opposite characters have one thing in common: an extra pocket for a gun'. 'The greater part of the Special Branch's job is building up dossiers. There are thousands of files on Communists, Fascists, the IRA and protest organisations right down to tenants' associations. Any of the people named in these files would be startled if he could see the Special Branch files. They give a detailed picture of him—his favourite pub, where he takes his holidays and his wife's

family history.' The Special Branch is said to comprise 300 investigators while MI5 employs thousands. 'The Branch has only ten ordinary police cars, but a fleet of secret vehicles including vans, taxis, station wagons and minis, which are used for "observation". They also tap phones. Although this needs authorisation from the Home Secretary, the Special Branch has little difficulty in obtaining it.' The James Bond touch is, it seems, overshadowed by 'slog and boredom' which includes 'renting offices opposite a court where a political trial (sic!) is on and photographing everyone going in and out'.

Perhaps the new series on the screen will be more reassuring, but its likely effect will be to make secret-policing acceptable to the public. The NCCL pointed out this danger to the Thames Television chairman together with the suggestion that the important civil liberty issues raised by the activities of the Special Branch should receive an immediate and much-needed public airing.

The Prime Minister is responsible to Parliament for security matters but in recent years he has not been under much

pressure to explain the function, financing and terms of reference of the Special Branch and MI5. In these circumstances the term 'secret police' is no exaggeration. The existence of a force over which there is minimal control and which has carte-blanche to intrude on the legitimate activities of private citizens is inimical to civil liberty and a denial of democracy. Of course any democratic state has an obligation to protect its security from the agents of foreign powers and from serious internal subversion. The difficulty is where to draw the line. The pressures on individual members of the Special Branch to collect dossiers on citizens who do not threaten security (the *Observer* estimated a total of 2 million security dossiers in 1965) and to use such information to the detriment of those under investigation (for example employment and promotion in the civil service) should not be underestimated. As complaints reach the NCCL we are gradually building up a broad, though still inadequate, picture of Special Branch activities which demands an explanation from the Government. For example—the principal

WILL THE QUEEN go on strike and refuse to take the trooping of the colour next year? A far-fetched thought perhaps which only anti-royalists enjoy conjuring up, yet even twenty years ago how many of us, even the professed cynics, would have vented the idea that the Queen through her husband, who was speaking to the press in America, would actually say that her state salary—and for that matter his own salary as well—was inadequate by present-day standards, and that they'd both like a rise.

That situation came to pass earlier this month when the most compulsive talker in the history of prince-consorts wrung our hearts with the reminder that the royal yacht had been sold (at a profit needless to say) and that he, Philip, might have to give up polo if the Government refused Elizabeth Windsor and himself the hoped-for increase. On this matter Wilson, typically, would say neither one thing nor the other, preferring to suspend the matter. Could this become a minor election issue in our present parlous financial state? But since the Government and the 'Opposition' merely mirror each other anyway, they could do a 'coalition' on this issue, thereby reassuring the electorate that all they've to offer is five more years of staleness and inconvenience.

The Queen's income is at a fixed rate throughout the length of her reign which started seventeen years ago, and not subject to change. Maybe in these inflated times when pop stars and footballers can make a million by selling their personalities before growing too old, £515,000 between two people may not seem much and at least one lesson has been rammed home by this unexpected royal request, namely the maniac spiralling in the cost of living. But the Queen and her family

A Little Matter of £475,000

are no ordinary mortals we're often told; after all she was born to rule and so forth, and there are still some misguided patriots even today who wouldn't care what percentage of the population was forced to live in damp and squalor so long as the royal myth was continued, no matter what the cost. Beyond the state salary it's difficult to see the wood for the trees—there is the Queen's private income on top of the salary for one, the fact that so much of what she receives is untaxed, various other 'perks', though set against this she does have to pay for some things, such as upkeep of staff and playing hostess at various functions given at her three royal residences outside London.

One of our popular morning papers ran an exhaustive series called 'Do We Need The Queen?' which was prompted by the almost unfavourable reception Prince Philip got from a section of anti-monarchists in Canada. Over 80% of the readership believed she was needed, while various well-known people in show-business and politics took a predictably safe attitude. Few were concerned at the cost and therefore the burden this institution brings to the sector of public cost or the thought that if Government mis-handling has threatened the Queen's finances then how much worse must it be for the people who indirectly support her and her husband and four children, two of whom are at present too young to have been exposed to the full blast of the royal rigmarole, but will have to be increasingly paid for when they reach the age that Princess Anne is now.

Also there was the widely-held opinion that this symbolic relic of ours was far preferable to a president who'd only abuse his powers, and that the monarchy as such keeps politicians in their places. But when something becomes merely symbolic, the strength of the symbolism is only what people like to read into it. With the screeching of the press, commercial interests have found exploiting the Royal Family through picture books, souvenirs and assorted trash a very lucrative business. These shrewd manipulators of public taste would certainly want the monarchy for keeps, helping to project some spurious wish-fulfilment glamour into lives which have none, as well as fuelling the deplorable rampant snobbery which all royal engagements generate.

But when things begin to pinch the majority of people who have to live life at a realistic level would economize, so I suggest that the Queen cuts her retreats outside London to two or even one, and Philip gets a job. £40,000 for cracking jokes and telling other people how to work seems a bit excessive even in these times of flagrant state wastage of the taxpayers' money. Our monarch is still the highest paid in the world, bar one, and this for a position where she is impotent to make decisions, and her presence merely keeps history alive and nothing more. Anarchists believe proper payment for those who do the vital work in society and the care and comfort of the old and the handicapped should have priority over the empty airs and graces of the royal family.

RON PEARL.

of a College in I
information abo
staff who by no
tion could be reg
A staff member o
has alleged that t
man asked him
addresses of anti-
ers and for in
activities of stu
Two meetings
Ennals of Anne
attended by the
officer. Accordi
of students have
asked to spy on th
People who a
formation by Spe
placed in an i

OPEN T

FOLLOWING
from 'RB' to
arses and up for
pleased to report
Belfast, before th
ing morass of
action. Anti-apar
planned and over
joining union me
bers in protesting
despite threats th
Act will be use
strators.

On Thursday, I
'trouble' broke
Union. The Union
numerous warning
whelming vote ag
holding a close
guest, the notor
parliamentary sec
of Home Affairs
consistently tried
B-men who murd
Armagh on Augu
been charged.

About 70 mem
PD, socialists a
outside the hall
porters and Un
heavies from the
Taylor claimed
everyone, the p

The Irish

Dear Comrades,
As the comrade
on Ireland I fee
you as requested
The reason th
earlier is that (1)
accurately in his
agreed with; and
need for endle
especially since v
portant things to
stone-mad UVF,
the teeth and sm
10 of their mem
McKeague. Ou
very reliable, is
near offing.

As to the pol
report. (1) To th
I didn't say that
PD—I did say t
in PD are to so
wards IS ideol

perhaps which only anti-royalists enjoy conjuring up, yet even twenty years ago how many of us, even the professed cynics, would have vented the idea that the Queen through her husband, who was speaking to the press in America, would actually say that her state salary—and for that matter his own salary as well—was inadequate by present-day standards, and that they'd both like a rise.

That situation came to pass earlier this month when the most compulsive talker in the history of prince-consorts wrung our hearts with the reminder that the royal yacht had been sold (at a profit needless to say) and that he, Philip, might have to give up polo if the Government refused Elizabeth Windsor and himself the hoped-for increase. On this matter Wilson, typically, would say neither one thing nor the other, preferring to suspend the matter. Could this become a minor election issue in our present parlous financial state? But since the Government and the 'Opposition' merely mirror each other anyway, they could do a 'coalition' on this issue, thereby reassuring the electorate that all they've to offer is five more years of staleness and inconvenience.

The Queen's income is at a fixed rate throughout the length of her reign which started seventeen years ago, and not subject to change. Maybe in these inflated times when pop stars and footballers can make a million by selling their personalities before growing too old, £515,000 between two people may not seem much and at least one lesson has been rammed home by this unexpected royal request, namely the maniac spiralling in the cost of living. But the Queen and her family

are no ordinary mortals we're often told; after all she was born to rule and so forth, and there are still some misguided patriots even today who wouldn't care what percentage of the population was forced to live in damp and squalor so long as the royal myth was continued, no matter what the cost. Beyond the state salary it's difficult to see the wood for the trees—there is the Queen's private income on top of the salary for one, the fact that so much of what she receives is untaxed, various other 'perks', though set against this she does have to pay for some things, such as upkeep of staff and playing hostess at various functions given at her three royal residences outside London.

One of our popular morning papers ran an exhaustive series called 'Do We Need The Queen?' which was prompted by the almost unfavourable reception Prince Philip got from a section of anti-monarchists in Canada. Over 80% of the readership believed she was needed, while various well-known people in show-business and politics took a predictably safe attitude. Few were concerned at the cost and therefore the burden this institution brings to the sector of public cost or the thought that if Government mis-handling has threatened the Queen's finances then how much worse must it be for the people who indirectly support her and her husband and four children, two of whom are at present too young to have been exposed to the full blast of the royal rigmarole, but will have to be increasingly paid for when they reach the age that Princess Anne is now.

Also there was the widely-held opinion that this symbolic relic of ours was far preferable to a president who'd only abuse his powers, and that the monarchy as such keeps politicians in their places. But when something becomes merely symbolic, the strength of the symbolism is only what people like to read into it. With the screeching of the press, commercial interests have found exploiting the Royal Family through picture books, souvenirs and assorted trash a very lucrative business. These shrewd manipulators of public taste would certainly want the monarchy for keeps, helping to project some spurious wish-fulfilment glamour into lives which have none, as well as fuelling the deplorable rampant snobbery which all royal engagements generate.

But when things begin to pinch the majority of people who have to live life at a realistic level would economize, so I suggest that the Queen cuts her retreats outside London to two or even one, and Philip gets a job. £40,000 for cracking jokes and telling other people how to work seems a bit excessive even in these times of flagrant state wastage of the taxpayers' money. Our monarch is still the highest paid in the world, bar one, and this for a position where she is impotent to make decisions, and her presence merely keeps history alive and nothing more. Anarchists believe proper payment for those who do the vital work in society and the care and comfort of the old and the handicapped should have priority over the empty airs and graces of the royal family.

RON PEARL.

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

TONY HULSE read space fiction at ten, and has now had his dreams come true. This, in fact, is exactly the level on which the moon business has been carried out. If it had been scripted by a comic-strip writer, it could not have been more tragically corny. The whole thing was played half as entertainment (the ideal soap opera—moronic all-American heroes in brisk technical equipment living a Real Life Adventure) and half as US propaganda. Anyone who was not nauseated by the dragging down of the project to the level of jokesy American banalities from the crew and com-

petitions for the watchers as to what the First Words on the Moon should be, must surely have been revolted by the eager-beaver confidence exuded by those involved in this terrifying act. This same confidence—may I remind you?—led the same American scientists to send up copper needles into the outer atmosphere for some footling experimental purpose, thus jeopardising the very stability of our environment and its protection from the sun. These space fiction heroes are children playing gleefully with the elements, the same technologically-advanced mind has obligingly devised a type of

napalm that clings better to the flesh than the outmoded type; is advocating the building of supersonic airliners to make nations into gigantic airstrips of noise; calculates that hens imprisoned in their thousands in tiny cells under eternal light will 'lay more' than under natural conditions.

If we cannot get out of this Frontiersman Of The Future attitude to life—this nostalgia for our childhood fantasies, combined with a Faustian capacity to realize them—we shall end, as we deserve, with no reality to tinker with.

My flights of fancy are, I trust, as pleasant as Tony Hulse's, but I know what they are and enjoy them as such. I don't take refuge in the belief that the moon cannot be used for military purposes—this may be true now, but when we were 10 years old space travel only happened in comics—reminding myself instead that the moon is probably an ideal laboratory for testing bacteria. As for the other worlds where alien anarchists may live; scientists have thought it funny that though mathematically it is certain that intelligence exists on other planets, we have had no sign of this. The explanation (it has been suggested) is that intelligent beings, beyond a certain stage of cleverness, always contrive to destroy themselves.

Maturity is not, unfortunately, achieved as a 'spin-off' of technological 'advance'. Its opposite is convincingly demonstrated by men who tread on the moon, only to put, if you please, a flag there. In a previous era's space-expression, 'God help us!'

JOHN ROE.

Anarchist Federation of Britain

The AFB information office will produce an internal bulletin. Comrades interested in its production are to meet in Birmingham on the first weekend of each month, from November onwards. All groups will be informed in detail. Address all letters to:

Peter Le Mare, 5 Hannaford Road, Rotton Park, Birmingham, 16. Material that cannot wait for the bulletin to be sent to **R. Atkins**, Vanbrugh College, Heslington, York. The Contact Column in 'Freedom' is also available for urgent information.

Groups should send latest addresses to Birmingham. New inquirers should

write direct to them or to the AFB information office in Birmingham.

AFB REGIONAL GROUPS

There are now anarchist groups in almost every part of the country. To find your nearest group write to:

Cornwall: A. Jacobs, 13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell. (M, Ma, B.)
Essex & E. Herts: P. Newell, 'Aegean', Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester. (QM, FL.)
North-West: Phil, 7 Trinity Square, Preston. (M.)
Surrey: G. Wright, 47 College Road, Epsom.
Sussex: E. Poole, 5 Tilsbury, Findon Road, Whitehawk, Brighton.
Yorkshire: M. Watkins, 6 Eberston Terrace, Leeds, 6.
Scotland: B. Lynn, 12 Ross Street, Glasgow.
Wales: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).
N. Ireland: c/o Freedom Press.
S. Ireland: c/o P. L. Mare (address above).
University and Student Groups: c/o P. L. Mare. (Abbreviations: M—meeting; Ma—magazine; B—badges; Q—Quarterly; FL—free leaflets.)

whelming vote a holding a close guest, the notor parliamentary se of Home Affairs consistently tried B-men who murd Armagh on Augu been charged.

About 70 men PD, socialists a outside the hall porters and U heavies from the Taylor claimed everyone, the

The Irish

Dear Comrades,

As the comrad on Ireland I feel you as requested

The reason t earlier is that (1) accurately in hi agreed with; and need for endle especially since v portant things to stone-mad UVF, the teeth and sm 10 of their mem McKeague. Ou very reliable, is near offing.

As to the po report. (1) To th I didn't say that PD—I did say t in PD are to so wards IS ideolo specific faction a chists are. (2) involved in the I regret that I n pression—I thin about when I w floor about squa general—we hav in Belfast and sent engaged in

So I'm afraid can only apolog wrong impressi been rather upse to being heavyl despairing at squabbling and those at the cor

I hope that yo 'recorrect your bad if people h been claiming c and that we will to find out, first-

Men in C

Dear Comrades,

The ad. in Co 'Wanted budgie prisoner' was ve No doubt the l give the bird an tion would easo prisonment for in a cage puts William Blake). still be in a cag about the hundr already in cages

SECRET POLICE

The Special Branch is 300 investigators while thousands. The Branch ordinary police cars, but vehicles including vans, wagons and minis, which "surveillance". They also tap telephone lines. This needs authorisation from the Home Secretary, the Minister has little difficulty in getting the James Bond touch is, shadowed by 'slog' and includes 'renting' offices where a political trial is being photographed everyone in the street.

A new series on the screen is reassuring, but its likely to make secret-policing more public. The NCCL is in danger to the Thames estuary together with the important civil liberty activities of the Special Branch should receive an immediate-needed public airing. The Minister is responsible for security matters but in this has not been under much

pressure to explain the function, financing and terms of reference of the Special Branch and MIS. In these circumstances the term 'secret police' is no exaggeration. The existence of a force over which there is minimal control and which has carte-blanche to intrude on the legitimate activities of private citizens is inimical to civil liberty and a denial of democracy. Of course any democratic state has an obligation to protect its security from the agents of foreign powers and from serious internal subversion. The difficulty is where to draw the line. The pressures on individual members of the Special Branch to collect dossiers on citizens who do not threaten security (the *Observer* estimated a total of 2 million security dossiers in 1965) and to use such information to the detriment of those under investigation (for example employment and promotion in the civil service) should not be underestimated. As complaints reach the NCCL we are gradually building up a broad, though still inadequate, picture of Special Branch activities which demands an explanation from the Government. For example—the principal

The Matter of £475,000

mortals we're often told; is born to rule and so are still some misguided day who wouldn't care of the population was damp and squalor so myth was continued, no cost. Beyond the state it to see the wood for is the Queen's private salary for one, the of what she receives other 'perks', though she does have to pay for as upkeep of staff and various functions given royal residences outside

popular morning papers the series called 'Do We?' which was prompted unfavourable reception from a section of anti-Canada. Over 80% of believed she was needed, unknown people in show-biz took a predictably were concerned at the burden this institution the sector of public cost that if Government mis-treated the Queen's how much worse must it who indirectly support and four children, at present too young posed to the full blast of life, but will have to be for when they reach success Anne is now.

Also there was the widely-held opinion that this symbolic relic of ours was far preferable to a president who'd only abuse his powers, and that the monarchy as such keeps politicians in their places. But when something becomes merely symbolic, the strength of the symbolism is only what people like to read into it. With the screeching of the press, commercial interests have found exploiting the Royal Family through picture books, souvenirs and assorted trash a very lucrative business. These shrewd manipulators of public taste would certainly want the monarchy for keeps, helping to project some spurious wish-fulfilment glamour into lives which have none, as well as fuelling the deplorable rampant snobbery which all royal engagements generate.

But when things begin to pinch the majority of people who have to live life at a realistic level would economize, so I suggest that the Queen cuts her retreats outside London to two or even one, and Philip gets a job. £40,000 for cracking jokes and telling other people how to work seems a bit excessive even in these times of flagrant state wastage of the taxpayers' money. Our monarch is still the highest paid in the world, bar one, and this for a position where she is impotent to make decisions, and her presence merely keeps history alive and nothing more. Anarchists believe proper payment for those who do the vital work in society and the care and comfort of the old and the handicapped should have priority over the empty airs and graces of the royal family.

RON PEARL.

of a College in Brighton was asked for information about a member of his staff who by no stretch of the imagination could be regarded as a 'subversive'. A staff member of a college in Coventry has alleged that the local Special Branch man asked him for the names and addresses of anti-Vietnam war campaigners and for information about the activities of students at the college. Two meetings addressed by Martin Ennals of Amnesty International were attended by the same Special Branch officer. According to the NUS a number of students have been approached and asked to spy on their colleagues.

People who are approached for information by Special Branch officers are placed in an intolerable position of

conflicting loyalties and uncertainty whether they are entitled to refuse to co-operate. Men who spend their lives snooping on others are going to have a very different view of what constitutes a threat to security from the rest of us. Their powers and terms of reference must be clearly defined and their activities subjected to effective public control if the Special Branch is to become a valid instrument of law enforcement as opposed to the secret and therefore undemocratic force it is now known to be.

(The National Council for Civil Liberties Monthly Bulletin Published from 152 Camden High Street, London, N.W.1.)

OPEN THE DOORS!

FOLLOWING AN EXHORTATION from 'RB' to students to get off their arses and up from their books, we are pleased to report that Queens University, Belfast, before the days of PD a slumbering morass of apathy, has seen some action. Anti-apartheid action has been planned and over 1,000 students will be joining union men, clergy and AA members in protesting against the Springboks, despite threats that the Special Powers Act will be used against any demonstrators.

On Thursday, November 13, however, 'trouble' broke out in the Students' Union. The Unionist Association, despite numerous warnings, protests and an overwhelming vote against them, insisted on holding a closed meeting with their guest, the notorious John D. Taylor, parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs—a hard-liner who has consistently tried to defend the Tynan B-men who murdered John Gallagher in Armagh on August 15—as yet none have been charged.

About 70 members of the University PD, socialists and liberals, assembled outside the hall which was guarded by porters and Unionists with assorted heavies from the Rugby Club. Although Taylor claimed he wanted to talk to everyone, the protesters were refused

admission. A group charged the locked doors and were attacked by defenders screaming 'Fenian bastards'. Punches were exchanged. A chair was hurled and after twenty minutes of repeated charges the doors gave in and the demonstrators surged in. Taylor, who hadn't been able to speak, announced that he had to run off back to Stormont and was allowed to leave unmolested.

Next day the papers and television were screaming for vengeance. The *Newsletter* gave front-page coverage to pathetic photos of two of the worst Unionist heavies suffering from their wounds—no mention of the fact that these two had attacked from behind and only got what they deserved. The Unionists have demanded rustications, have informed the police and special branch and are intent on a witch hunt, which may however rebound upon them when many of their own members are summoned.

Recently the elections to the bureaucratic Students Representative Council were twice sabotaged by sachets of acid in the ballot boxes—as a gesture against the futility of the so-called 'democratic functions'. As a result of both these developments the authorities will soon be attempting to ban all political meetings, which will doubtless stiffen the growing resistance.

WILLIAM KING.

The Irish Problem

Dear Comrades,

As the comrade who spoke at the AFB on Ireland I feel that I must write to you as requested in the latest FREEDOM.

The reason that I haven't written earlier is that (1) Reg stated the position accurately in his last letter, which we agreed with; and (2) Like you I see no need for endless internal bickering, especially since we have many more important things to worry about—like the stone-mad UVF, who are now armed to the teeth and smarting over the arrest of 10 of their members including the mad McKeague. Our information, usually very reliable, is that reprisals are in the near offing.

As to the points mentioned in your report. (1) To the best of my recollection I didn't say that IS were working inside PD—I did say that some of the people

Letters

more in until such time as the offensiveness of the practice seeps through human consciousness and the fashion dies away. It will probably take a little longer to persuade ourselves to stop putting men into cages. In the meantime, are there comrades who could make time to lessen this man's loneliness by making contact with him and sending him as many regular letters as he is allowed to receive?

Fraternally,

M. CANIPA.

Community Living

mortals we're often told; is born to rule and so are still some misguided day who wouldn't care of the population was a damp and squalor so myth was continued, no cost. Beyond the state to see the wood for is the Queen's private of the salary for one, the of what she receives other 'perks', though he does have to pay for a upkeep of staff and various functions given royal residences outside

popular morning papers the series called 'Do We?' which was prompted unfavourable reception from a section of anti-Canada. Over 80% of believed she was needed, unknown people in show- ities took a predictably w were concerned at the e the burden this insti- he sector of public cost at if Government mis- threatened the Queen's w much worse must it who indirectly support and and four children, e at present too young osed to the full blast of e, but will have to be for when they reach ccess Anne is now.

watchers as to what the the Moon should be, been revolted by the idence exuded by those rrrifying act. This same I remind you?—led the scientists to send up to the outer atmosphere experimental purpose, the very stability of and its protection from pace fiction heroes are gleefully with the ele- echnologically-advanced gly devised a type of

f Britain

to them or to the AFB office in Birmingham.

ONAL GROUPS

chist groups in almost every To find your nearest group

13 Ledrah Road, St. Austell.

P. Newell, 'Aegean', Spring

een, Colchester. (QM, FL.)

inity Square, Preston. (M.)

College Road, Epsom.

sbury, Findon Road, White-

ins, 6 Eberston Terrace,

Ross Street, Glasgow.

e (address above).

m Press.

Mare (address above).

t Groups: c/o P. L. Mare.

-meeting; Ma—magazine;

rtarily; FL—free leaflets.)

Also there was the widely-held opinion that this symbolic relic of ours was far preferable to a president who'd only abuse his powers, and that the monarchy as such keeps politicians in their places. But when something becomes merely symbolic, the strength of the symbolism is only what people like to read into it. With the screeching of the press, commercial interests have found exploiting the Royal Family through picture books, souvenirs and assorted trash a very lucrative business. These shrewd manipulators of public taste would certainly want the monarchy for keeps, helping to project some spurious wish-fulfilment glamour into lives which have none, as well as fuelling the deplorable rampant snobbery which all royal engagements generate.

But when things begin to pinch the majority of people who have to live life at a realistic level would economize, so I suggest that the Queen cuts her retreats outside London to two or even one, and Philip gets a job. £40,000 for cracking jokes and telling other people how to work seems a bit excessive even in these times of flagrant state wastage of the taxpayers' money. Our monarch is still the highest paid in the world, bar one, and this for a position where she is impotent to make decisions, and her presence merely keeps history alive and nothing more. Anarchists believe proper payment for those who do the vital work in society and the care and comfort of the old and the handicapped should have priority over the empty airs and graces of the royal family.

RON PEARL.

napalm that clings better to the flesh than the outmoded type; is advocating the building of supersonic airliners to make nations into gigantic airstrips of noise; calculates that hens imprisoned in their thousands in tiny cells under eternal light will 'lay more' than under natural conditions.

If we cannot get out of this Frontiersman Of The Future attitude to life—this nostalgia for our childhood fantasies, combined with a Faustian capacity to realize them—we shall end, as we deserve, with no reality to tinker with.

My flights of fancy are, I trust, as pleasant as Tony Hulse's, but I know what they are and enjoy them as such. I don't take refuge in the belief that the moon cannot be used for military purposes—this may be true now, but when we were 10 years old space travel only happened in comics—reminding myself instead that the moon is probably an ideal laboratory for testing bacteria. As for the other worlds where alien anarchists may live; scientists have thought it funny that though mathematically it is certain that intelligence exists on other planets, we have had no sign of this. The explanation (it has been suggested) is that intelligent beings, beyond a certain stage of cleverness, always contrive to destroy themselves.

Maturity is not, unfortunately, achieved as a 'spin-off' of technological 'advance'. Its opposite is convincingly demonstrated by men who tread on the moon, only to put, if you please, a flag there. In a previous era's space-expression, 'God help us!'

JOHN ROE.

whelping vote against them, insisted on holding a closed meeting with their guest, the notorious John D. Taylor, parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs—a hard-liner who has consistently tried to defend the Tynan B-men who murdered John Gallagher in Armagh on August 15—as yet none have been charged.

About 70 members of the University PD, socialists and liberals, assembled outside the hall which was guarded by porters and Unionists with assorted heavies from the Rugby Club. Although Taylor claimed he wanted to talk to everyone, the protesters were refused

The Irish Problem

Dear Comrades,

As the comrade who spoke at the AFB on Ireland I feel that I must write to you as requested in the latest FREEDOM.

The reason that I haven't written earlier is that (1) Reg stated the position accurately in his last letter, which we agreed with; and (2) Like you I see no need for endless internal bickering, especially since we have many more important things to worry about—like the stone-mad UVF, who are now armed to the teeth and smarting over the arrest of 10 of their members including the mad McKeague. Our information, usually very reliable, is that reprisals are in the near offing.

As to the points mentioned in your report. (1) To the best of my recollection I didn't say that IS were working inside PD—I did say that some of the people in PD are to some extent orientated towards IS ideology, but they are not a specific faction any more than the anarchists are. (2) The anarchists were not involved in the Clooney Park squat and I regret that I must have given that impression—I think this must have come about when I was questioned from the floor about squatting activities in NI in general—we have been involved in squats in Belfast and Lurgan—and are at present engaged in more.

So I'm afraid that Reg was right, and can only apologise if I gave you the wrong impression—I confess to have been rather upset at the conference, due to being heavily involved here, and in despairing at times at the ceaseless squabbling and apparent impotence of those at the conference.

I hope that you will print one line to 'reconfirm your reconfirmation' (it would be bad if people here thought that we had been claiming credit for other's actions) and that we will see you soon over here to find out, first-hand, the situation.

'AUGUSTUS BERKES'.

Men in Cages

Dear Comrades,

The ad. in Contact Column last week 'Wanted budgie in cage for long-term prisoner' was very sad, for both of them. No doubt the love and care he would give the bird and its responsive recognition would ease the blasphemy of imprisonment for both ('A robin redbreast in a cage puts all heaven in a rage'—William Blake). But they would both still be in a cage. We can't do anything about the hundreds of thousands of birds already in cages except stop putting any

they deserved. The Unionists have demanded rustications, have informed the police and special branch and are intent on a witch hunt, which may however rebound upon them when many of their own members are summoned.

Recently the elections to the bureaucratic Students Representative Council were twice sabotaged by sachets of acid in the ballot boxes—as a gesture against the futility of the so-called 'democratic functions'. As a result of both these developments the authorities will soon be attempting to ban all political meetings, which will doubtless stiffen the growing resistance.

WILLIAM KING.

Letters

more in until such time as the offensiveness of the practice seeps through human consciousness and the fashion dies away. It will probably take a little longer to persuade ourselves to stop putting men into cages. In the meantime, are there comrades who could make time to lessen this man's loneliness by making contact with him and sending him as many regular letters as he is allowed to receive?

Fraternally,

M. CANIPA.

Community Living

Dear Comrades,

We are in the process of setting up a community housing venture in the North Kent area. Broadly, we aim to pool our resources to buy a large house, and thereafter, through co-operative means, by sharing our various responsibilities, establish an environment that will afford a wider and freer range of activities, encourage individual creative and practical abilities and generally make for a more imaginative and satisfying way of life. We hope, eventually, to have the means to free ourselves from the imposed burden of formal work and instead develop our own means of support—the establishment of a school could well be a long-term aim. We are, however, having difficulty in finding enough people with the means and the willingness to join with us in such a venture and make it a viable proposition. Would anyone interested, therefore, please write to: John and Kate Snelling, Great Comp Cottage, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Help 'Freedom'

Buy two papers
this week

Q.E.D.: That which is to be demonstrated

THIS WEEK-END has seen the continuation of the series of 'demos' (even the contraction betrays a hackneyed familiarity) about Springboks and Apartheid; about that most demonstrated subject: Vietnam and in Japan about talks with America—with one thousand five hundred arrests. For us in England, and more particularly in London and Brighton, it was a long squat summer with rather dispirited 'demos' about Biafra, that Cinderella of wars and emotion-packed 'demos' about Israel or Palestine.

A new generation of rebels seems to have arisen. Rebels without the book-learning which came from a misspent youth in the Left Book Club or a barrack-room adolescence with surreptitious *Daily Workers* and *War Commentaries* but rebels reared in pure but not quite unalloyed action; if not blooded on the barricades of Teruel and Cable Street, then upon the pavements of Trafalgar and Grosvenor Squares. The old joke about the youth of policemen is equated by the observation of 'how young the demonstrators are getting'.

The *Sunday Telegraph* (Nov. 16), running true to pompous reactionary form, thinks that demonstrations are going too far. 'Until very recently freedom to demonstrate, which is guaranteed by law, was also controlled by convention' is how the leader-writer starts. This sets up a whole row of question-begging and given this false premise there's no knowing where

the writer will end—one guesses though! There is no guarantee by law of freedom to demonstrate. There is no action likely to be carried out in a demonstration that could not be subject to some law or another. Obstruction (the breathing act); breach of the peace, conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace; insulting behaviour, offensive weapons (banners or brollies); insulting and offensive language; conspiracy (a decision by several to do the same thing); obstructing an officer in the course of his duty; sedition; blasphemy—you name it, any demonstration has done it.

All demonstrations have originally broken the law. Even that prize exhibit of our democracy—Speakers' Corner (Hyde Park) was established by force, and the railings were torn down the whole of Park Lane to establish it! Laws are in fact altered or distorted in order to cope with demonstrations which the authorities find to be obnoxious but, not at the time, strictly illegal.

The *Sunday Telegraph* speaks of 'convention' controlling demonstrations; if, in fact, a demonstration gets conventional, it is time to abandon it, and do something different. The conventional use of Grosvenor Square and/or Downing Street is hopelessly out-of-date not only because it betrays a conventional type of political thinking but also because it is expected. The conventional use of non-violence has, it seems, been followed by the conventional use of

violence.

The value of any demonstration is in the element of surprise, only the unfamiliar and the unexpected can jog out of the rut those demonstration *afficionados* who sit round their tellies lapping it all up. Two recent examples come to mind. The magnificent timing of the Armistice Day shout at the Cenotaph, after the maroons and before the 'last post' and the Swansea Springboks match with a demo on the pitch after half-time.

The *Sunday Telegraph* goes on very feelingly that 'Anti-Government demonstrations in war-time came squarely into that ("not done") category'. This is absurd for it pre-supposes that when war is declared 100% of the citizenry are behind that war, and the *Telegraph* goes on to hint that opposition would be treason. What if the citizen feels that his nation has made a mistake to enter into the war, that his leaders are pursuing a criminal policy, that even as a patriotic citizen it is his duty to point this out? This position was highly applauded in those few Germans who adhered to it. Why should Americans who take up such a stand now be thought to encourage North Vietnamese aggression?

'Concern' says the *Telegraph* condescendingly 'about Vietnam, Biafra and apartheid is both natural and desirable. Yet the awkward fact remains that they display a readiness to carry passionate

protests beyond the which previously control.'

One recalls in the protests from on friends that 'Surely to carry on all the now!' The *ST* disapproves—protest is only want or ineffectual dimensions when channels blocked in of, the democratic to be 'not done', the best excuse for democratic acts of governments. LBJ with him the text of (gained by fraud powers to act as he Who voted for helping Biafra? Who, I voted for apartheid the Springboks?

CND almost be 'ment' enterprise almost linked in Henley and Ascot. tional constitution replaced in the p activities of the Con saved the 'Ban the Bomb' from the dead-end Activities which ve mind, upon the tre 'Ban the Bomb' m however vague, in t and may have o extent to the Test reform as this was.

'A liberal society surfeit of unregulated righteous'; this is the cool *Telegraph*. To —tell a mother to from the fire grad who is about to say to approach the m measured regulated the Vietnamese, to Bantus. 'Discipline

TO FIND PRIVATE accommodation for a family in the London area is difficult. For a woman with seven children, deserted by her husband, seven months' pregnant and living on social security, it is literally impossible. Yet this was the advice given to Mrs. Kentfield by the Croydon Welfare Department when they ordered her to leave their welfare accommodation, after six weeks.

Under the terms of the 1948 National Assistance Act, Local Authorities are required to provide temporary accommodation for homeless families. Successive Ministers have stated that no time limit should be placed on this provision: and that temporary accommodation should be provided until permanent accommodation is available. Successful campaigns have been waged against authorities who attempted to impose a

CROYDON EVICTION AVERTED

three-month time limit, but the Croydon Councillors still feel that six weeks is long enough to house the homeless.

Mrs. Kentfield became homeless after being evicted from private rooms as an illegal sub-tenant. Previously, she had had a nervous breakdown and four of her children taken into care because of the overcrowded and inadequate conditions she was forced to live in. When her six weeks were up she refused to go. The Council refused to accept further rent and obtained a court order. The bailiffs were due to evict her and her children at 10.15 Wednesday, October 1.

In desperation she contacted the GLC

tenants association who put her in touch with the S.E. London squatters. On Tuesday morning the squatters informed the Council that the eviction would be resisted in every possible way—and that if it succeeded Mrs. Kentfield would immediately be installed in an empty Council house. GLC tenants and the Croydon Radical Action Movement pledged their support and the Minister of Health was asked to investigate the Council's policy towards the homeless.

Faced with the threat of direct action, the Council wisely agreed to postpone eviction indefinitely and to arrange a meeting with the S.E. London squatters to discuss the whole question of limiting stay in Welfare accommodation.—(End of Press Statement.)

On October 29, we met the Town Clerk and his legal adviser. Like most Council officials we have met, he stressed the humanity and flexibility with which his Council applied its arbitrary rules, but did not wish to discuss the only concrete case we had as an example—that

of Mrs. Kentfield.

We referred him to National Assistance Ministry circulars of which instructed Council time limits and not to accommodation. Welfare policy should be recorded with these clear-cut. Clerk agreed to call between us and the dren's, Welfare and H This has not yet taken Does we can ask for complete abolition of If we fail to achieve ment, a campaign There are various who might unite in squatting would obv tactics. People in the Ian McNay of CRAM Shirley, Croydon. PH

Issued by South East from 5 Clock House Phone: 650 7517

Computers: Friend OR Foe?

demonstrators are getting'.

The *Sunday Telegraph* (Nov. 16), running true to pompous reactionary form, thinks that demonstrations are going too far. 'Until very recently freedom to demonstrate, which is guaranteed by law, was also controlled by convention' is how the leader-writer starts. This sets up a whole row of question-begging and given this false premise there's no knowing where

'convention' controlling demonstrations; if, in fact, a demonstration gets conventional, it is time to abandon it, and do something different. The conventional use of Grosvenor Square and/or Downing Street is hopelessly out-of-date not only because it betrays a conventional type of political thinking but also because it is expected. The conventional use of non-violence has, it seems, been followed by the conventional use of

this out? This position was highly applauded in those few Germans who adhered to it. Why should Americans who take up such a stand now be thought to encourage North Vietnamese aggression?

'Concern' says the *Telegraph* condescendingly 'about Vietnam, Biafra and apartheid is both natural and desirable. Yet the awkward fact remains that they display a readiness to carry passionate

surfeit of unregulated righteousness'; this is a cool *Telegraph*. To tell a mother to from the fire ground who is about to start to approach the measured regulated the Vietnamese, to Bantus. 'Discipline

TO FIND PRIVATE accommodation for a family in the London area is difficult. For a woman with seven children, deserted by her husband, seven months' pregnant and living on social security, it is literally impossible. Yet this was the advice given to Mrs. Kentfield by the Croydon Welfare Department when they ordered her to leave their welfare accommodation, after six weeks.

Under the terms of the 1948 National Assistance Act, Local Authorities are required to provide temporary accommodation for homeless families. Successive Ministers have stated that no time limit should be placed on this provision: and that temporary accommodation should be provided until permanent accommodation is available. Successful campaigns have been waged against authorities who attempted to impose a

three-month time limit, but the Croydon Councillors still feel that six weeks is long enough to house the homeless.

Mrs. Kentfield became homeless after being evicted from private rooms as an illegal sub-tenant. Previously, she had had a nervous breakdown and four of her children taken into care because of the overcrowded and inadequate conditions she was forced to live in. When her six weeks were up she refused to go. The Council refused to accept further rent and obtained a court order. The bailiffs were due to evict her and her children at 10.15 Wednesday, October 1.

In desperation she contacted the GLC

tenants association who put her in touch with the S.E. London squatters. On Tuesday morning the squatters informed the Council that the eviction would be resisted in every possible way—and that if it succeeded Mrs. Kentfield would immediately be installed in an empty Council house. GLC tenants and the Croydon Radical Action Movement pledged their support and the Minister of Health was asked to investigate the Council's policy towards the homeless.

Faced with the threat of direct action, the Council wisely agreed to postpone eviction indefinitely and to arrange a meeting with the S.E. London squatters to discuss the whole question of limiting stay in Welfare accommodation.—(End of Press Statement.)

On October 29, we met the Town Clerk and his legal adviser. Like most Council officials we have met, he stressed the humanity and flexibility with which his Council applied its arbitrary rules, but did not wish to discuss the only concrete case we had as an example—that

of Mrs. Kentfield.

We referred him to National Assistance Ministry circulars of which instructed Council time limits and not accommodation. Welfare policy should be reviewed with these clear-cut. Clerk agreed to ca between us and the dren's, Welfare and l This has not yet t does we can ask f complete abolition If we fail to achiev ment, a campaign There are various who might unite in squatting would ob tactics. People in th Ian McNay of CRA Shirley, Croydon. P

Issued by South E from 5 Clock Hous Phone: 650 7517.

Computers: Friend OR Foe?

THIS HEADING is nonsense! There is a myth which is fed by science fiction writers that computers can think, which is not true (by thinking I mean imaginative thought process although random selection of processes is possible).

It is comparable with nuclear power—cheap power or the Bomb. It is the computer operators and programmers, etc., who are to be feared. For a computer can make decisions but only if it has been programmed to do so, e.g. selection of compatible humans for marriage; asking a computer programmed for this to work out tax deductions would be a waste of time unless a suitable programme was provided.

The New Revolution is now in progress, the Computer (or, as it should be called, Information Processor) Revolution. Formerly revolutionaries studied economics due to Marx's influence, then the social sciences. Now is the time for anarchists to study computers and their applications.

Is the computer friend or foe? The answer is politicians, technocrats, etc., can use computers for good or bad. Within an anarchist society, with programmers, etc., under democratic anarchist control (and the principles of programming are not incredibly difficult to understand), computer communication and operation network will enable the needs of the people to be met by the people more easily and keep the working day at a minimum. (A computer is complex enough to cater for individuals if one takes the trouble.)

There is the other side emphasised by

the NCCL in their privacy campaign and the new magazine by computer people called *Real Time* which is worth reading.

It would be nice to be a Luddite but much more useful in an anarchist society to work computers for the benefit of all people. Anarchists must be aware of the implications and perhaps, how to upset the smooth running of this bureaucratic machine.

BILL WEST.

HOLIDAY NOTICE

IN view of the pagan holiday arrangements at our typesetters we are going to continue the publication of 'Freedom' and not have a break at the end of this month. The last issue of the year, No. 40, will be out for the weekend Saturday, December 20. The following two weeks no 'Freedom' will appear, and our first issue of the new year will be out for weekend Saturday, January 10. This issue will have our new 'Freedom' title page, and a different layout, which we hope will give the paper a better appearance and make it easier to sell at the higher price.

Driver Mills Clobbered Again

AMIDST ALL THE SPATE of moralizing and justifying (often the same thing) about the sentences on the Great Train Robbers, we are always urged to think of Driver Mills, their victim, who was coshed and seriously injured in the course of the robbery. So incensed were some kindly people by the amount given to Mrs. Ronald Biggs for her memoirs that they got together and made a collection for Driver Jack Mills.

However, on looking through the *Guardian* of October 28, one finds that Mr. Mills (64 years of age) has received a letter from British Rail dispensing with his services on grounds of redundancy. But all is well, as the *Guardian* says the letter 'is a matter of routine and no further action would be taken'. A spokesman said to the *Guardian*, 'We have sent the letter to all men over the age of 55 offering redundancy and resettlement grants under a new pay and efficiency scheme. As one of the men in this age category Mr. Mills would receive this offer. The idea is to offer premature retirement to men in this age group to minimize redundancies lower down the age scale. But in the case of Mr. Mills we have decided to take no further

action whatsoever'. added,' says the C Mills is to continue pay as before the would be paid until retirement age'.

This it would seem meanwhile Mr. M Perhaps Mr. Mills train robbers for dancy until his offic

Meanwhile the N trict of the NUR is take up with the I question of payme stories and to stop fiscating all received they are asking for Mills for bravery.

Who are the r British Rail?

**LATEST DATE F
MSS., LETTERS, M
IS THE MONDAY
OF PUBLI
WE GO TO PRES**

which strated

ne guesses though!
by law of freedom
is no action likely
demonstration that
to some law or
(the breathing act);
conduct likely to
ne peace; insulting
eapons (banners or
nd offensive lan-
decision by several
g); obstructing an
his duty; sedition;
e it, any demon-

have originally
that prize exhibit
Speakers' Corner
established by force,
e torn down the
establish it! Laws
distorted in order
trations which the
obnoxious but, not
egal.

graph speaks of
g demonstrations;
stration gets con-
o abandon it, and
nt. The conven-
or Square and/or
elessly out-of-date
betrays a conven-
thinking but also
The conventional
as, it seems, been
ventional use of

violence.

The value of any demonstration is in the element of surprise, only the unfamiliar and the unexpected can jog out of the rut those demonstration *afficionados* who sit round their tellies lapping it all up. Two recent examples come to mind. The magnificent timing of the Armistice Day shout at the Cenotaph, after the maroons and before the 'last post' and the Swansea Spring-boks match with a demo on the pitch after half-time.

The *Sunday Telegraph* goes on very feelingly that 'Anti-Government demonstrations in war-time came squarely into that ("not done") category'. This is absurd for it pre-supposes that when war is declared 100% of the citizenry are behind that war, and the *Telegraph* goes on to hint that opposition would be treason. What if the citizen feels that his nation has made a mistake to enter into the war, that his leaders are pursuing a criminal policy, that even as a patriotic citizen it is his duty to point this out? This position was highly applauded in those few Germans who adhered to it. Why should Americans who take up such a stand now be thought to encourage North Vietnamese aggression?

'Concern' says the *Telegraph* condescendingly 'about Vietnam, Biafra and apartheid is both natural and desirable. Yet the awkward fact remains that they display a readiness to carry passionate

protests beyond the traditional limitations which previously held it in voluntary control.'

One recalls in the last 'war to end war' protests from one's liberal and left friends that 'Surely one was not going to carry on all this anti-war business now!' The *ST* displays a similar attitude—protest is only tolerated when irrelevant or ineffectual. When protest reaches dimensions when it can force open the channels blocked in spite of, or because of, the democratic process, it is thought to be 'not done'. Universal suffrage is the best excuse yet made for the undemocratic acts of democratically-elected governments. LBJ used to carry about with him the text of a Senate resolution (gained by fraud) which gave him powers to act as he wished in Vietnam. Who voted for help to Nigeria in crushing Biafra? Who, in the black majority, voted for *apartheid*—or for the visit of the Springboks?

CND almost became an 'establishment' enterprise and Aldermaston was almost linked in the calendar with Henley and Ascot. However the conventional constitutional exercise was replaced in the public mind by the activities of the Committee of 100 which saved the 'Ban the Bomb' movement from the dead-end of routine protest. Activities which verged, in the public mind, upon the treasonable assured the 'Ban the Bomb' movement of a place, however vague, in the history of protest and may have contributed to some extent to the Test Ban Treaty, minimal reform as this was.

'A liberal society . . . cannot survive a surfeit of unregulated passion, however righteous'; this is the conclusion of the cool *Telegraph*. To paraphrase Garrison—tell a mother to extricate her child from the fire gradually, tell a father who is about to save his drowning boy to approach the matter in a spirit of measured regulated passion. Tell it to the Vietnamese, to the Biafrans, to the Bantus. 'Discipline your passions.'

JACK ROBINSON.

books?

**we can supply
any book in print**

SECONDHAND

We have a large stock of secondhand books. Try us for what you want. This weeks selection.

No Gold on my Shovel	Ifan Edwards	3/-
Eden: The Making of a Statesman	Alan Campbell-Johnson	25/-
Life of Oliver Cromwell	M. Guizot	5/-
Françoise in Love with Love	Françoise Delisle	15/-
The Early History of Charles James Fox	George Otto Trevelyan	3/6
He Walks Alone: Life of Cunningham-Reid	R. T. Ellis	3/-
An American Testament	Joseph Freeman	3/-
Promise at Dawn	Romain Gary	3/6
Life of Gladstone	John Morley (3 volumes)	15/-
Marching with the Times	Douglas Goldring	3/-
Gibbon	J. Cotter Morison	3/-
Uphill all the Way	Mary Agnes Hamilton	6/-
Forty Years In and Out of Parliament	Sir Percy Harris	3/-
I Haven't Unpacked	William Holt	3/-
Georgian Adventure	Douglas Jerrold	3/-
Simple on a Soapbox	John A. Lee	6/-
A Man's Life	Jack Lawson	3/-
All Experience	Ethel Mannin	6/-
Mirabeau (in French)	Louis Barthou	3/-
George Moore: Merchant and Philanthropist	Samuel Smiles	3/6

POSTAGE EXTRA

Freedom Bookshop

HERE WE ARE!

Note new telephone number:
BIShopsgate 9249

New address:
84B WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET,
(entrance Angel Alley),
WHITECHAPEL, E.1.
(Underground: Aldgate East. Exit:
Whitechapel Art Gallery. Turn right
on emerging from station.)

FREEDOM PRESS and Bookshop
Opening times:

Closed Monday, Sunday.
Tuesday-Friday, 3-7 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

FREEDOM PRESS

are the publishers
of the monthly magazine
ANARCHY
and the weekly journal
FREEDOM
specimen copies will be
sent on request.

ON EVICTION AVERTED

, but the Croydon
that six weeks is
the homeless.
me homeless after
ivate rooms as an
eviously, she had
down and four of
o care because of
inadequate condi-
to live in. When
she refused to go.
to accept further
court order. The
evict her and her
nesday, October 1.
contacted the GLC

tenants association who put her in touch with the S.E. London squatters. On Tuesday morning the squatters informed the Council that the eviction would be resisted in every possible way—and that if it succeeded Mrs. Kentfield would immediately be installed in an empty Council house. GLC tenants and the Croydon Radical Action Movement pledged their support and the Minister of Health was asked to investigate the Council's policy towards the homeless.

Faced with the threat of direct action, the Council wisely agreed to postpone eviction indefinitely and to arrange a meeting with the S.E. London squatters to discuss the whole question of limiting stay in Welfare accommodation.—(End of Press Statement.)

On October 29, we met the Town Clerk and his legal adviser. Like most Council officials we have met, he stressed the humanity and flexibility with which his Council applied its arbitrary rules,

of Mrs. Kentfield.

We referred him to Section 21B of the National Assistance Act and to the joint Ministry circulars of Oct. 66 and Sept. 67, which instructed Councils **not** to impose time limits and **not** to evict from Part III accommodation. We asked that their policy should be reconsidered to conform with these clear-cut directions. The Town Clerk agreed to call a further meeting between us and the heads of the Children's, Welfare and Housing Departments. This has not yet taken place. When it does we can ask for nothing less than complete abolition of the six weeks rule. If we fail to achieve this through argument, a campaign must be initiated. There are various groups in Croydon who might unite in such a campaign and squatting would obviously be one of its tactics. People in the area should contact Ian McNay of CRAM, 4 Orchard Avenue, Shirley, Croydon. Phone: 778 1826.

Issued by South East London Squatters

ing demonstrations; demonstration gets con- to abandon it, and ent. The conven- enor Square and/or elessly out-of-date betrays a conven- al thinking but also d. The conventional has, it seems, been onventional use of

this out? This position was highly applauded in those few Germans who adhered to it. Why should Americans who take up such a stand now be thought to encourage North Vietnamese aggression?

'Concern' says the *Telegraph* con- descendingly 'about Vietnam, Biafra and apartheid is both natural and desirable. Yet the awkward fact remains that they display a readiness to carry passionate

surfeit of unregulated passion, however righteous'; this is the conclusion of the cool *Telegraph*. To paraphrase Garrison —tell a mother to extricate her child from the fire gradually, tell a father who is about to save his drowning boy to approach the matter in a spirit of measured regulated passion. Tell it to the Vietnamese, to the Biafrans, to the Bantus. 'Discipline your passions.'

JACK ROBINSON.

A Man's Life Jack Lawson 3/-
All Experience Ethel Mannin 6/-
Mirabeau (in French) Louis Barthou 3/-
George Moore: Merchant and Philanthropist Samuel Smiles 3/6

POSTAGE EXTRA

Freedom Bookshop

HERE WE ARE!

Note new telephone number:
BIShopsgate 9249

New address:

84B WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET,
(entrance Angel Alley),
WHITECHAPEL, E.1.
(Underground: Aldgate East. Exit:
Whitechapel Art Gallery. Turn right
on emerging from station.)

FREEDOM PRESS and Bookshop
Opening times:

Closed Monday, Sunday.
Tuesday-Friday, 3-7 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

FREEDOM PRESS

are the publishers
of the monthly magazine
ANARCHY
and the weekly journal
FREEDOM
specimen copies will be
sent on request.

PUBLICATIONS include

Berkman's
ABC of ANARCHISM 2/6 (+5d.)
Rocker's
NATIONALISM AND
CULTURE 21/- (+4/6)
Richards'
MALATESTA: His Life and Ideas
Cloth bound 21/- (+1/3)
Full list on application.

Dig Deep!

PRESS FUND

November 18-24

Camden: D.G. 10/-; Wrexham: I.A. 5/-;
Redbarn: F.G. 10/-; Kettering: T.P. £1;
Oxford: Anon 7/-; Wolverhampton:
J.K.W. 4/-; K.F. & C.F. 4/-; J.L. 6/-;
Begnacarello: M.M. 5/-; Leeds: A.P. 12/6;
Amsterdam: P.H. De H. £2/10/-; Farn-
ham: D.M.B. 6/6; Wembley: R.G. 5/8;
London, N.W.6: T.T. 5/-; Bookshop:
Anon 3/-; Winslow: F.J. £3; London, W.2:
C.H. 5/8; Ferryden: D.C. 10/-; Coulsdon:
M.C. £2; Glasgow: A.J. 3/-; Liverpool:
J.B.C. 7/6; Chicago: J.K. £10; Glasgow:
J.M.B. 9/-; Islington, Ontario: L.T. £1;
Kingston, Ontario: £1/7/-.

Total: £25 7 10

Previously Acknowledged: £145 7 10

Total received to date: £170 15 8

STILL NEEDED: £830 0 0

ON EVICTION AVERTED

it, but the Croydon that six weeks is e the homeless. ame homeless after private rooms as an Previously, she had kdown and four of into care because of d inadequate condi- d to live in. When up she refused to go. d to accept further a court order. The evict her and her dnesday, October 1. contacted the GLC

tenants association who put her in touch with the S.E. London squatters. On Tuesday morning the squatters informed the Council that the eviction would be resisted in every possible way—and that if it succeeded Mrs. Kentfield would immediately be installed in an empty Council house. GLC tenants and the Croydon Radical Action Movement pledged their support and the Minister of Health was asked to investigate the Council's policy towards the homeless.

Faced with the threat of direct action, the Council wisely agreed to postpone eviction indefinitely and to arrange a meeting with the S.E. London squatters to discuss the whole question of limiting stay in Welfare accommodation.—(End of Press Statement.)

On October 29, we met the Town Clerk and his legal adviser. Like most Council officials we have met, he stressed the humanity and flexibility with which his Council applied its arbitrary rules, but did not wish to discuss the only concrete case we had as an example—that

of Mrs. Kentfield.

We referred him to Section 21B of the National Assistance Act and to the joint Ministry circulars of Oct. 66 and Sept. 67, which instructed Councils not to impose time limits and not to evict from Part III accommodation. We asked that their policy should be reconsidered to conform with these clear-cut directions. The Town Clerk agreed to call a further meeting between us and the heads of the Children's, Welfare and Housing Departments. This has not yet taken place. When it does we can ask for nothing less than complete abolition of the six weeks rule. If we fail to achieve this through argument, a campaign must be initiated. There are various groups in Croydon who might unite in such a campaign and squatting would obviously be one of its tactics. People in the area should contact Ian McNay of CRAM, 4 Orchard Avenue, Shirley, Croydon. Phone: 778 1826.

Issued by South East London Squatters from 5 Clock House Road, Beckenham. Phone: 650 7517.

privacy campaign and by computer people which is worth reading. to be a Luddite but an anarchist society for the benefit of all must be aware of d perhaps, how to nning of this bureau-

Driver Mills Clobbered Again

BILL WEST.

AMIDST ALL THE SPATE of moral- izing and justifying (often the same thing) about the sentences on the Great Train Robbers, we are always urged to think of Driver Mills, their victim, who was coshed and seriously injured in the course of the robbery. So incensed were some kindly people by the amount given to Mrs. Ronald Biggs for her memoirs that they got together and made a collection for Driver Jack Mills.

However, on looking through the *Guardian* of October 28, one finds that Mr. Mills (64 years of age) has received a letter from British Rail dispensing with his services on grounds of redundancy. But all is well, as the *Guardian* says the letter 'is a matter of routine and no further action would be taken'. A spokesman said to the *Guardian*, "We have sent the letter to all men over the age of 55 offering redundancy and resettlement grants under a new pay and efficiency scheme. As one of the men in this age category Mr. Mills would receive this offer. The idea is to offer premature retirement to men in this age group to minimize redundancies lower down the age scale. But in the case of Mr. Mills we have decided to take no further

action whatsoever". The spokesman added, says the *Guardian*, 'that Mr. Mills is to continue to receive the same pay as before the robbery and this would be paid until he reached official retirement age'.

This it would seem is not far off, meanwhile Mr. Mills' pay continues. Perhaps Mr. Mills should thank the train robbers for delaying his redundancy until his official retirement.

Meanwhile the North Midlands district of the NUR is asking the union to take up with the Home Secretary the question of payment for train-robber stories and to stop such payment, confiscating all received up to now. Also they are asking for a reward for Mr. Mills for bravery.

Who are the *real* train robbers? British Rail?

R.J.

LATEST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF MSS., LETTERS, MEETING NOTICES IS THE MONDAY IN EACH WEEK OF PUBLICATION.

WE GO TO PRESS ON MONDAY

gan holiday arrange- resettlers we are going lication of 'Freedom' k at the end of this ue of the year, No. e weekend Saturday, following two weeks appear, and our first ear will be out for January 10. This new 'Freedom' title nt layout, which we aper a better appear- easier to sell at the

Italy's 'Hot Autumn'

WORKERS IN ITALY last week staged their third nationwide general strike. They have all centred around a certain demand and have been called jointly by the three main unions, CGIL (Communist and Socialist), CISL (Christian Democrats) and UIL (Socialist, Social Democrats and Republicans). The first strike achieved increased pensions, while the second did away with regional wage differentials. However, last week's strike centred around the question of housing, an issue which has already led to strikes by building workers last July.

In a last minute effort to head off the strike, the Government announced measures to provide £800,000 to finance homes for people living in industrial areas. Their plans also include a three-year programme of new urban development to provide houses for dwellers in the shanty towns. Recently a large number of these people burned

down their own hovels in an attempt to force the authorities to house them decently.

With the huge increase of population in the northern industrial areas, there is an acute shortage of low-priced accommodation. This has meant a boom in land speculation and laws to expropriate land at reasonable prices are rarely used. Municipal councils are usually in the red and do not have the funds available to buy land anyway.

Although last week's strike was about the lack of housing, this autumn also sees the end of the current labour contracts between unions and employers and the commencement of negotiations for new ones. However, while the 'hot autumn' of industrial unrest was predicted, it has been preceded by other periods of equally intensive action, which has been mainly in Turin and Milan where Fiat and Pirelli have established themselves into feudal industrial empires. These cities have experienced numerous strikes for higher wages and better working conditions. As reported in *FREEDOM*, 'Fiat in the Vanguard' (Vol. 30, No. 30) workers did not wait for their labour contracts to expire but have taken action themselves without waiting for their unions.

CORRUPTION

Last week's widespread strike and demonstrations, in which one policeman was killed and 56 injured, were not just for higher wages. They have a deeper significance in that the whole State machinery is out of date and seems to be slowly grinding to a halt. The Civil Service is rife with corruption while funds granted by the Central Government to the poverty-stricken south never reach those in need and plans to develop areas never materialise.

According to *The Economist* of April 19, 1969, 'The whole business of government over the last two decades has revolved around who is to manage the distribution of jobs and contracts and funds. The result at the receiving end has been chaos.' Later *The Economist* article says: 'Why now, when the country is apparently so prosperous and so democratic? Because Italian demo-

cratic situation, wage increases should be kept low. Signs are that employers are worried by the waves of militant action. Attitudes are hardening and they are resorting to more frequent lock-outs and suspension of militants (Fiat has just suspended 200 workers). Last week the financial paper, *Il Globo*, also added its weight to this reaction by calling for the repeal of Article 40 of the Constitution, which makes political strikes lawful.

The failure of successive governments to pursue the necessary reforms for the modernisation of this antiquated State machinery has led to the economic booms and prosperity reaching just a small proportion of the population. Even when higher wages are earned, it means little for about 40% to 60% is spent on living accommodation.

STUDENTS AND WORKERS

The Communist Party, with its policy of the parliamentary road to power, has been as impotent as the rest. The unions, poorly organised and lacking strike funds, have been little help against the industrial corporations of the North. However the initiative has come from the workers themselves, who, with the help of students, have staged unofficial strikes on wages and the right to hold meetings within the factories. Last month, Fiat's reply to these demands was to lay off 30,000 other workers, while Pirelli, in Milan, brought in tyres from Spain and Greece.

Italian students, following the example of their French counterparts, have made increasing contact with the workers, playing a bigger part in industrial disputes. These revolutionary groups, some anarchist, but mainly Marxist, get a better hearing from the young workers, as was the case in France, and their policies of lessening pay differentials and payments for needs have engendered much response from the lower-paid workers, particularly those from the South.

PLANT BARGAINING

The unions fear these student groups and the Communist Party and union, while trying to make as much political capital as they can out of the unrest, are trying hard to contain it. While pushing for higher wages, the unions are split on the issue of plant bargaining. Like the employers, who walked out of negotiations when this question was raised, they realise that it would strengthen the workers on the shop floor. In fact, the giants of Pirelli and Fiat fear this more than giving a substantial pay increase.

The unions and the Communist Party, with its offer to help form a government, are scared stiff that the present industrial unrest will lead to a revolution.

Contact Column

This column exists for mutual aid. Donations towards cost of typesetting will be welcome.

Speaking From Experience: Libertarian teachers discuss problems of freedom and control. L.T.A. 7 p.m. Saturday, December 13 at Jacquetta Benjamins, 4 Warminster Road, S.E.25.

Open Meeting Seminar on Ireland. Sunday, December 7, 2 o'clock. All welcome at Freedom Press Hall.

Cardiff Peoples Paper. 6d. per issue. 16 Gordon Road, Cardiff, CF1 4PL.

Comrade wanted urgently—to translate 'Der Freiheitliche Syndikalismus im Wohlfahrtsstaat'. Box No. 01.

Wanted: Budgie and cage for long term prisoner. Phone Ros 01-229 8512.

Anyone interested in forming an Anarchist group in Exeter please contact Dave, 13A Northernhay Street, Exeter.

History Workshop. Saturday, November 29-Sunday, November 30, Ruskin College, Oxford. Oxfordshire Poachers, London anarchists, Paris Commune, Victorian Pubs, Australian Bandits, Shoemaker Chartists, Jude the Obscure. Papers by E. J. Hobsbawm, Gwyn Williams, Ruskin Students, etc. Folk Song. Workers, students,

Fr
For W

NOVEMBER 2

DOU

WHEN THE EM

constantly de
democratic govern
pledge of legal s
workers, they are
logical extension
all employers acc
industrial weapons
handed disciplined.

The courts of la
accepted by the w
comed, but viabl
managerial machin
worker commit an
of employment, tha
to trial by magist
prosecution, then th
to prosecute or no
the charity of the
practice is of doub
worried the employ
prosecuting a wor
his hand into the t
their role of Good
decide not to pros
crime but merely
then a sense of esca
understandably clo
mouths of the legal

The great evil of
the fact that a wor
tim of an outraged
injustice. And th
offence of stealing
shillings' worth of
minor prison sente
so, and have a li
loyal service ended
end of the unemp
greater punishment
he leaves prison.
every week in the
and to put it in its
to contemplate an
private soldier was
after having served
It is a one-edged w
its edge is alway
workers for it wou
would claim, to rec
employer being sen
against the worker
of work.

gramme of new urban development to provide houses for dwellers in the shanty towns. Recently a large number of these people burned

Contact Column

This column exists for mutual aid. Donations towards cost of typesetting will be welcome.

Speaking From Experience: Libertarian teachers discuss problems of freedom and control. L.T.A. 7 p.m. Saturday, December 13 at Jacquetta Benjamins, 4 Warminster Road, S.E.25.

Open Meeting Seminar on Ireland. Sunday, December 7, 2 o'clock. All welcome at Freedom Press Hall.

Cardiff Peoples Paper. 6d. per issue. 16 Gordon Road, Cardiff, CF1 4PL.

Comrade wanted urgently—to translate 'Der Freiheitliche Syndikalismus im Wohlfahrtsstaat'. Box No. 01.

Wanted: Budgie and cage for long term prisoner. Phone Ros 01-229 8512.

Anyone interested in forming an Anarchist group in Exeter please contact Dave, 13A Northernhay Street, Exeter.

History Workshop. Saturday, November 29-Sunday, November 30, Ruskin College, Oxford. Oxfordshire Poachers, London anarchists, Paris Commune, Victorian Pubs, Australian Bandits, Shoemaker Chartists, Jude the Obscure. Papers by E. J. Hobsbawm, Gwyn Williams, Ruskin Students, etc. Folk Song. Workers, students, teachers welcome. Sleeping floor accommodation. Details from History Workshop, Ruskin College.

'Synic': Fortnightly libertarian broadsheet information service for the left from Freedom Press and left workshops. Subscription 17/6 per annum. Any articles, dates or orders to: 'Synic', Room 209, Abbey House, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Prisoners for Peace Day. List available from Freedom Press. Send greeting cards of support and solidarity.

Poster Workshop Calendar. Out Now. One Fighting Poster for each month, in black, red and blue. 7/6 each, at least. Send to Alison Waghorne, 9 Lyme Terrace, N.W.1.

Urgent. Help fold and dispatch FREEDOM every Thursday from 4 p.m. onwards. Tea served.

Workers' Mutual Aid pamphlet 1/- each from Freedom Press.

Visits Please! Three of five squatters remanded in custody do not have family in London, and would welcome visits. Brixton: Diarmuid Breatnach ('Buzz'); Ashford Remand Centre, Middx.: David Griffiths, Michael Ali. For rota please phone Sonia Markham at RENown 2014. (Letters also welcomed.)

Contact wanted with anarchists in Mid-Wales; Eric S. Hetherington, Corbie Lynn, Llanwrtyd Wells, Breconshire.

Bit inf. service 01-229 8219. Urgently requires more crash pads in and around London.

Schools Anarchist Group in Gloucestershire? Contact Kate & Joe, 3 Withy Lea, Leonard Stanly, nr. Stonehouse, GL10 3NS, Glos.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

other periods of equally intensive action, which has been mainly in Turin and Milan where Fiat and Pirelli have established themselves into feudal industrial empires. These cities have experienced numerous strikes for higher wages and better working conditions. As reported in FREEDOM, 'Fiat in the Vanguard' (Vol. 30, No. 30) workers did not wait for their labour contracts to expire but have taken action themselves without waiting for their unions.

CORRUPTION

Last week's widespread strike and demonstrations, in which one policeman was killed and 56 injured, were not just for higher wages. They have a deeper significance in that the whole State machinery is out of date and seems to be slowly grinding to a halt. The Civil Service is rife with corruption while funds granted by the Central Government to the poverty-stricken south never reach those in need and plans to develop areas never materialise.

According to *The Economist* of April 19, 1969, 'The whole business of government over the last two decades has revolved around who is to manage the distribution of jobs and contracts and funds. The result at the receiving end has been chaos.' Later *The Economist* article says: 'Why now, when the country is apparently so prosperous and so democratic? Because Italian democracy, like the Italian economy, is jerry-built. It can topple at any moment, like the tower blocks on the hillside at Agrigento, whose builders profitably forgot to lay the foundations. Part of the cause of today's troubles lies back in December 1945, when the Christian Democrats, with the complicity of the allied powers, restored a corrupt and inefficient bureaucracy and then proceeded to build up their own political power on the basis of jobbery and patronage. The foundations still creak.'

Italy's economic boom and prosperity are indeed very shaky for they have been based on the depopulation of the South. People have been moving into Turin and Milan at the rate of between 2,000 and 3,000 per week and this influx of additional labour has been needed because of the industrial expansion. Italian industry, which is internationally competitive, is now faced with growing unemployment and big concessions on wage increases could obviously bring the competitive advantage to an end.

HARDENING ATTITUDES

Some members of the employers' organisation, Confindustria, are in favour of big wage concessions, while others, like Dr. Carli, the Governor of the Bank of Italy, say that with the present infla-

tion it is as impotent as the rest. The unions, poorly organised and lacking strike funds, have been little help against the industrial corporations of the North. However the initiative has come from the workers themselves, who, with the help of students, have staged unofficial strikes on wages and the right to hold meetings within the factories. Last month, Fiat's reply to these demands was to lay off 30,000 other workers, while Pirelli, in Milan, brought in tyres from Spain and Greece.

Italian students, following the example of their French counterparts, have made increasing contact with the workers, playing a bigger part in industrial disputes. These revolutionary groups, some anarchist, but mainly Marxist, get a better hearing from the young workers, as was the case in France, and their policies of lessening pay differentials and payments for needs have engendered much response from the lower-paid workers, particularly those from the South.

PLANT BARGAINING

The unions fear these student groups and the Communist Party and union, while trying to make as much political capital as they can out of the unrest, are trying hard to contain it. While pushing for higher wages, the unions are split on the issue of plant bargaining. Like the employers, who walked out of negotiations when this question was raised, they realise that it would strengthen the workers on the shop floor. In fact, the giants of Pirelli and Fiat fear this more than giving a substantial pay increase.

The unions and the Communist Party, with its offer to help form a government, are scared stiff that the present industrial unrest will lead to a revolutionary situation. Certainly the potential is there and the example and propaganda of the students is having an effect. Whether the worn-out State machinery and the governments of coalition can head off this unrest remains to be seen, but the Italian strikes and demonstrations of the past year show that it is not just the conditions that bring about this sort of situation. What also plays an important part is the hard work and example of revolutionary groups with revolutionary aims. The case for revolution has to be put over and the signs are that it has not been in vain.

P.T.

Hollow Victory at BSR

THE RECOGNITION OF the AEF by BSR East Kilbride, has proved to be a mere stunt by the firm to counteract the rotten publicity they have received (even from the *Daily Express*) and a cynical manoeuvre by the Government's Commission on Industrial Relations.

The return to work has ended in another strike. The firm have demoted and transferred many of the strikers. The union, which signed the agreement, has now done a quick somersault and claims to support the new strike. It's hard to say which is the bigger bastard,

accepted by the courts or the victory comed, but viable managerial machine worker commit an of employment, the to trial by magis prosecution, then th to prosecute or no the charity of the practice is of doub worried the employ prosecuting a wor his hand into the t their role of Goo decide not to pro crime but merely then a sense of es understandably clo mouths of the lega

The great evil o the fact that a wor tim of an outraged injustice. And th offence of stealing shillings' worth of minor prison sente so, and have a li loyal service ended end of the unemp greater punishment he leaves prison. every week in the and to put it in its to contemplate an private soldier was after having served It is a one-edged i its edge is alway workers for it wou would claim, to rec employer being sen against the worker of work.

PROFITS BEFORE PEOPLE

Offences against or against the sha employers having t a place in the dock trialist or City of ever had to fear t for anti-social act that they own. Lo safe for the road, not fitted onto mach, first aid room lavatories stink an berate fraud in the and bonus paymen pens if these matte

AEF or BSR. Yo and you takes yo

All the firm wan the union wants is both will resort to them. Struggles f are a working clas should believe tha in his pocket, his t sell-outs by unions tories and refuse that unionisation first step on a l workers' control anarchist society.

mn'

vels in an attempt
priorities to house

increase of popu-
rthern industrial
acute shortage of
modation. This has
land speculation
ropriate land at
are rarely used.
s are usually in
ot have the funds
and anyway.

week's strike was
of housing, this
the end of the
contracts between
yers and the com-
otiations for new
while the 'hot
unrest was
been preceded by
equally intensive
s been mainly in
where Fiat and
lished themselves
empire. These
rienced numerous
wages and better
s. As reported in
in the Vanguard
workers did not
bour contracts to
aken action them-
waiting for their

espread strike and
which one police-
d 56 injured, were
wages. They have
ance in that the
inery is out of date
slowly grinding to
Service is rife with
funds granted by
overnment to the
south never reach
d plans to develop
rialise.

The Economist of
The whole business
er the last two de-
ed around who is
istribution of jobs
funds. The result
d has been chaos.'

omist article says:
n the country is
prosperous and so
pro-Italian demo-

tionary situation, wage increases should
be kept low. Signs are that employers
are worried by the waves of militant
action. Attitudes are hardening and they
are resorting to more frequent lock-outs
and suspension of militants (Fiats have
just suspended 200 workers). Last week
the financial paper, *Il Globo*, also added
its weight to this reaction by calling for
the repeal of Article 40 of the Constitu-
tion, which makes political strikes
lawful.

The failure of successive governments
to pursue the necessary reforms for the
modernisation of this antiquated State
machinery has led to the economic booms
and prosperity reaching just a small pro-
portion of the population. Even when
higher wages are earned, it means little
for about 40% to 60% is spent on living
accommodation.

STUDENTS AND WORKERS

The Communist Party, with its policy
of the parliamentary road to power, has
been as impotent as the rest. The unions,
poorly organised and lacking strike funds,
have been little help against the indus-
trial corporations of the North. How-
ever the initiative has come from the
workers themselves, who, with the help
of students, have staged unofficial strikes
on wages and the right to hold meetings
within the factories. Last month, Fiat's
reply to these demands was to lay off
30,000 other workers, while Pirelli, in
Milan, brought in tyres from Spain and
Greece.

Italian students, following the example
of their French counterparts, have made
increasing contact with the workers, play-
ing a bigger part in industrial disputes.
These revolutionary groups, some anar-
chist, but mainly Marxist, get a better
hearing from the young workers, as was
the case in France, and their policies of
lessening pay differentials and payments
for needs have engendered much response
from the lower-paid workers, particularly
those from the South.

PLANT BARGAINING

The unions fear these student groups
and the Communist Party and union,
while trying to make as much political
capital as they can out of the unrest, are
trying hard to contain it. While pushing
for higher wages, the unions are split on
the issue of plant bargaining. Like the
employers, who walked out of negotia-
tions when this question was raised, they
realise that it would strengthen the
workers on the shop floor. In fact, the
giants of Pirelli and Fiat fear this more
than giving a substantial pay increase.

The unions and the Communist Party,
with its offer to help form a government,
are scared stiff that the present industrial
unrest will lead to a revolutionary

Freedom For Workers' Control

NOVEMBER 29 1969 Vol 30 No 37

DOUBLE JEOPARDY

WHEN THE EMPLOYERS loudly and
constantly demand that the social
democratic government shall honour its
pledge of legal sanctions against the
workers, they are merely demanding a
logical extension of the basic right that
all employers accept as one of their
industrial weapons to keep the horny-
handed disciplined.

The courts of law have always been
accepted by the workers as an unwel-
comed, but viable extension of the
managerial machinery in that should any
worker commit an act, while in his place
of employment, that would lay him open
to trial by magistrate or higher court
prosecution, then the decision of whether
to prosecute or not lies entirely within
the charity of the employer. That this
practice is of doubtful legality has never
worried the employers. If they insist on
prosecuting a worker who has dipped
his hand into the till they are acting out
their role of Good Citizen and if they
decide not to prosecute a known minor
crime but merely to sack the worker,
then a sense of escape will obviously and
understandably close the eyes and the
mouths of the legal pedants.

The great evil of this practice lies in
the fact that a workman can be the vic-
tim of an outrageous and wicked act of
injustice. And that for some minor
offence of stealing no more than a few
shillings' worth of lead he can face a
minor prison sentence, of but a week or
so, and have a lifetime of compulsory
loyal service ended and a place at the
end of the unemployment queue as a
greater punishment waiting for him when
he leaves prison. That this happens
every week in the courts is indisputable
and to put it in its proper perspective is
to contemplate an army wherein every
private soldier was automatically sacked
after having served seven days' jankers.
It is a one-edged weapon, however, and
its edge is always turned against the
workers for it would be impossible, one
would claim, to recall a single case of an
employer being sent to prison for offences
against the workers during their period
of work.

is that a lawyer representing his absent
client attends court, offers whatever plea
is politic, and pays the statutory fine and
the matter is ended until the next mui-
lated workman screams for mercy and/or
compensation.

The day that My Lord Robens or any
other head of a State- or monopoly-
owned industry goes waltzing down to
the cells, to share a common piss pot
with one of their own naughty workmen
for an offence before the law will con-
vince us then, and only then, of the im-
partiality of the law. If a lorry driver
has to stand in the dock for driving an
overloaded lorry and that worker faces
the risk of losing his State licence and
his job and the employer does not share
the dock with him, then we can only
assume that the State is seeking to up-
hold the letter of the law by victimising
the worker and in doing so protecting
the employer.

BUSMEN CHARGED

This is not an academic issue for at
this moment nine bus driver-conductors
have appeared before a magistrate at
their local court charged with stealing
sums of money ranging from 5d. to 2s. 3d.
and falsifying the cash sheets on their
return to the depot. At the time of
reporting they have been released on bail
for they are committed for trial at the
Sessions. The men were summonsed in
the local court by London Transport but
they have elected to go for trial and their
fellow workers have already begun to
collect for their defence fund. London
Transport would argue that they had no
alternative but to prosecute but I would
ask why not one of the directors of LT
was prosecuted when a wrongly printed
fare chart was used on one particular
route and passengers overcharged. None
of that money was ever returned and no
director of the LT stood in the dock of
the local court. They merely printed
another fare chart and the matter was
forgotten.

ARTIFICIAL DEMAND

To say that ours is a corrupt society is

preceded by equally intensive strikes mainly in the north where Fiat and other industrial empires. These strikes have experienced numerous wage and better conditions. As reported in the 'Vanguard' workers did not take any action themselves waiting for their

despread strike and in which one policeman was injured, were wages. They have a chance in that the machinery is out of date slowly grinding to a halt. Service is rife with funds granted by government to the south never reach plans to develop industrialise.

The Economist of the whole business over the last two decades around who is distribution of jobs and funds. The result has been chaos. *Economist* article says: 'When the country is prosperous and so cause Italian demoralisation of the Italian economy, is it can topple at any time the tower blocks on Agrigento, whose I forgot to lay the part of the cause of lies back in December the Christian Democracy complicity of the restored a corrupt bureaucracy and then build up their own on the basis of patronage. The foundation'

economic boom and prosperity very shaky for they are on the depopulation. People have been in Milan at the 2,000 and 3,000 per cent influx of additional needed because of expansion. Italian internationally compared with growing and big concessions could obviously competitive advantage to

ATTITUDES

of the employers' industrial, are in favour concessions, while others, Governor of the Bank with the present infla-

of the parliamentary road to power, has been as impotent as the rest. The unions, poorly organised and lacking strike funds, have been little help against the industrial corporations of the North. However the initiative has come from the workers themselves, who, with the help of students, have staged unofficial strikes on wages and the right to hold meetings within the factories. Last month, Fiat's reply to these demands was to lay off 30,000 other workers, while Pirelli, in Milan, brought in tyres from Spain and Greece.

Italian students, following the example of their French counterparts, have made increasing contact with the workers, playing a bigger part in industrial disputes. These revolutionary groups, some anarchist, but mainly Marxist, get a better hearing from the young workers, as was the case in France, and their policies of lessening pay differentials and payments for needs have engendered much response from the lower-paid workers, particularly those from the South.

PLANT BARGAINING

The unions fear these student groups and the Communist Party and union, while trying to make as much political capital as they can out of the unrest, are trying hard to contain it. While pushing for higher wages, the unions are split on the issue of plant bargaining. Like the employers, who walked out of negotiations when this question was raised, they realise that it would strengthen the workers on the shop floor. In fact, the giants of Pirelli and Fiat fear this more than giving a substantial pay increase.

The unions and the Communist Party, with its offer to help form a government, are scared stiff that the present industrial unrest will lead to a revolutionary situation. Certainly the potential is there and the example and propaganda of the students is having an effect. Whether the worn-out State machinery and the governments of coalition can head off this unrest remains to be seen, but the Italian strikes and demonstrations of the past year show that it is not just the conditions that bring about this sort of situation. What also plays an important part is the hard work and example of revolutionary groups with revolutionary aims. The case for revolution has to be put over and the signs are that it has not been in vain.

P.T.

The courts of law have always been accepted by the workers as an unwelcome, but viable extension of the managerial machinery in that should any worker commit an act, while in his place of employment, that would lay him open to trial by magistrate or higher court prosecution, then the decision of whether to prosecute or not lies entirely within the charity of the employer. That this practice is of doubtful legality has never worried the employers. If they insist on prosecuting a worker who has dipped his hand into the till they are acting out their role of Good Citizen and if they decide not to prosecute a known minor crime but merely to sack the worker, then a sense of escape will obviously and understandably close the eyes and the mouths of the legal pedants.

The great evil of this practice lies in the fact that a workman can be the victim of an outrageous and wicked act of injustice. And that for some minor offence of stealing no more than a few shillings' worth of lead he can face a minor prison sentence, of but a week or so, and have a lifetime of compulsory loyal service ended and a place at the end of the unemployment queue as a greater punishment waiting for him when he leaves prison. That this happens every week in the courts is indisputable and to put it in its proper perspective is to contemplate an army wherein every private soldier was automatically sacked after having served seven days' jankers. It is a one-edged weapon, however, and its edge is always turned against the workers for it would be impossible, one would claim, to recall a single case of an employer being sent to prison for offences against the workers during their period of work.

PROFITS BEFORE SAFETY

Offences against the tax departments or against the shareholders have found employers having to stand three deep for a place in the dock but no major industrialist or City of London con artist has ever had to fear the wrath of the State for anti-social actions in the factories that they own. Lorries are sent out unsafe for the road, safety-first guards are not fitted onto machines, for easier working, first aid rooms are not available, lavatories stink and there can be deliberate fraud in the costing of piecework and bonus payments, and all that happens if these matters are brought to light

the cells, to share a common piss pot with one of their own naughty workmen for an offence before the law will convince us then, and only then, of the impartiality of the law. If a lorry driver has to stand in the dock for driving an overloaded lorry and that worker faces the risk of losing his State licence and his job and the employer does not share the dock with him, then we can only assume that the State is seeking to uphold the letter of the law by victimising the worker and in doing so protecting the employer.

BUSMEN CHARGED

This is not an academic issue for at this moment nine bus driver-conductors have appeared before a magistrate at their local court charged with stealing sums of money ranging from 5d. to 2s. 3d. and falsifying the cash sheets on their return to the depot. At the time of reporting they have been released on bail for they are committed for trial at the Sessions. The men were summonsed in the local court by London Transport but they have elected to go for trial and their fellow workers have already begun to collect for their defence fund. London Transport would argue that they had no alternative but to prosecute but I would ask why not one of the directors of LT was prosecuted when a wrongly printed fare chart was used on one particular route and passengers overcharged. None of that money was ever returned and no director of the LT stood in the dock of the local court. They merely printed another fare chart and the matter was forgotten.

ARTIFICIAL DEMAND

To say that ours is a corrupt society is but to state the obvious, but it functions on an economic system that deliberately seeks to pay the worker the lowest possible wage for greatest amount of work it can make him perform, while at the same time selling the material products of the worker's labour for the highest price for the smallest amount. Ours is a society geared to one single elementary economic principle and that is to create an artificial demand or a false shortage in an attempt to take back every penny of the national wage bill paid out that current week. On that rotten edifice we have built a framework of corrupt values while pretending to a Christian morality.

Nine men are to go for trial for putting into private practice the mores of our capitalistic society. Morality and honesty does not enter into the matter of the nine busmen for who would stand in judgement. The employers are demanding that the pleasures of penal legal sanctions that they already enjoy in disciplining the workers within their privately-owned industries, shall be extended to include any actions that the workers take in defence of their living standards even unto the passive act of just refusing to work. Our spokesmen are demanding nothing on our behalf, only fighting a wordy and losing battle against the employers. The time has come when we as workers should demand and force the employers that it ends the act of double jeopardy in that a worker must be punished twice for a single act. When the workers fought your wars you, the State, ordered the employers to give them back their jobs, so let it be so with the worker who comes out of prison.

PETER PAINTER.

LUMPENPROLETARIAN.

Hollow Victory at BSR

THE RECOGNITION OF the AEF by BSR East Kilbride, has proved to be a mere stunt by the firm to counteract the rotten publicity they have received (even from the *Daily Express*) and a cynical manoeuvre by the Government's Commission on Industrial Relations.

The return to work has ended in another strike. The firm have demoted and transferred many of the strikers. The union, which signed the agreement, has now done a quick somersault and claims to support the new strike. It's hard to say which is the bigger bastard,

AEF or BSR. You pays your money and you takes your Hobson's Choice.

All the firm wants is docile labour, all the union wants is docile dues-payers and both will resort to any dirty trick to get them. Struggles for union recognition are a working class advance, but no one should believe that with a union card in his pocket, his troubles are over. The sell-outs by unions in teaching, car factories and refuse collection have shown that unionisation is only the workers' first step on a long road leading to workers' control of industry and an anarchist society.